**8th GRADE GIFTED EDUCATION PLAN 2013-2014**

The Middle Grade Gifted Program is designed to build on skills learned in the grade before. Although the materials may be familiar, the level of development changes from grade to grade as does the method of instruction and depth of analysis.

**I. DEVELOP RESEARCH SKILLS**

1. Students will master the use of reference materials and resources.

2. Students will develop and employ rigorous note taking skills.

3. Students will perform individualized personal interviews for primary resource use.

4. Students will avidly employ outline techniques for compiling information and developing extensive prewriting skills.

5. Students will become well versed in a myriad of report formats (standard book reports, MLA essays, etc.).

6. Students will improve upon existing organizational skills by undertaking and completing a variety of long-term projects.

7. Students will undertake and complete an entry for the National History Day competition.

**II. ENHANCE THINKING SKILLS AND PROBLEM SOLVING ABILITIES**

1. Students will be presented with puzzles and mindbenders that further their creative thought processes.
2. Students will complete brainteasers and logic problems that build upon the classroom skill sets of other subject areas (math, science, etc.).
3. Students will participate in the Future Problem Solving Program, thus furthering their use of the FPS process and encouraging outside-the-box thinking.

**III. IMPROVE COMPUTER AND TECHNOLOGY SKILLS**

1. Students will become well versed in the research avenues and areas (as well as the limitations) presented by Internet sources and search engines.
2. Students will complete reports and projects using a variety of software mediums (Power Point, Word, etc.).
3. Students will expand their exposure to and knowledge of numerous types of computer software.
4. Students will demonstrate their mastery of technological skill sets by crafting web pages relating to research avenues.

**IV. EXPAND SCOPE OF LITERACY AND CULTURAL EXPOSURE**

1. Students will maintain reading journals and complete book reports regarding assigned texts.
2. Students will complete a variety of research projects (National History Day, Literature projects, etc.).
3. Students will further their exposure to literary themes by participating in literary circles.
4. Students will demonstrate comprehension of theatrical techniques and concepts by crafting individual performance-based projects.
5. Students will further their cultural enrichment by attending out-of-school theatrical performances.

**V. ENHANCE WRITING AND CREATIVE EXPRESSION SKILLS**

1. Students will complete and submit entries to the Phenix City School District’s Young Authors Competition.
2. Students will craft scenarios adhering to the rules outlined in the FPSPI’s scenario writing guidelines.
3. Students will craft essays, short stories, etc. for submission to a variety of writing competitions held nationwide.
4. Students will broaden their insight into writing techniques by maintaining a writing journal.

**VI. EXPLORE CAREERS**

1. Students will be presented with opportunities to enjoy talks from a variety of individuals representing various career fields.
2. Students will participate in the Career Cruising program.
3. Students will be introduced to strategies for implementation in SAT and ACT preparation.

Mr. Cross may be contacted at vcross@pcboe.net.

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 Parent Signature Date