

Talented & Gifted



Secondary Program, Grades 7-12

Here is a glimpse of what the students in the secondary program are involved in this fall and winter.

- ✚ The mentoring/tutoring program currently has eight talented and gifted mentors assisting over 20 students in a variety of levels and content areas: first grade reading, elementary band, upper elementary core subjects, and junior high core subjects. Michaela McIlravy, Tayler Schad, Carli Kenyon, Madison Hall, Dylan Gibson, Dalton Knickerbocker, Magen Andrasko, and Dakota Gibson are so appreciated by those they serve.
- ✚ The big undertaking this fall is National Novel Writing Month, a.k.a. NaNoWriMo. This contest will have our young novelists Elizabeth Gerdes, Madison Hall, Emma Johanson, Emily Murphy, and Nicole Shutt composing a minimum of 50,000 words during the 30-day writing period. A write-in at The Daily Grind in Norwalk is planned for November 7.
- ✚ Anthony Rudich, Alex Kim, Connor Dunn, and Magen Andrasko have selected their topics and project areas for the National History Day Contest in March. A recent trip to Simpson's Dunn Library allowed these students to access sources. Teacher Jodi Noga is also a parent volunteer who is collaborating with TAG facilitator Amy Sowder for this in-depth.
- ✚ Both Sowder and Noga attended the Iowa Talented and Gifted state conference in Des Moines in October. Gifted expert Dr. Sally Reis gave the keynote address on creativity, an area that gets little attention as more emphasis is placed on academics and assessments.
- ✚ Teacher Marcy Roff collaborated with Sowder for an 8th grade science unit with a focus on fossils and podcasts from the Field Museum Web site.
- ✚ The Pride of Iowa high school academic team will attend the preliminary competition on November 2 at SWCC in Creston: Tim Snyder, Alice Dembinski, Ben Spick, Carli Kenyon, Anthony Rudich, Alex Kim, Kyle Kisling, Connor Dunn and Emily Murphy.
- ✚ An IT career session was presented by parent Dean Furness in October. He introduced students to his field and reflected on the impact of digital technology. A second career session with Furness is planned for later this fall.
- ✚ Dalton Knickerbocker, Gabe Haptops, and Dakota Gibson will spearhead a charity event called Giving Trees for YESS, Youth Emergency Shelter Services (ages birth-18) in Des Moines. Trees will be up right before Thanksgiving.

**NaNoWriMo,
11/1-11/30**

**Pride of Iowa
Academic Bowl,
11/2**

**Giving Trees,
11/23-12/9**

**JH Lunch Bunch
& Trivia Contest,
11/23**