



# Course Syllabus

SY 2008-09

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**COURSE TITLE:** Gifted Education (SEARCH) Elementary Grades – K -3

**PREREQUISITE:** N/A

**DESCRIPTION:** The Loudoun County SEARCH program focuses on thinking skills and is designed to foster a classroom environment that encourages students to develop an excitement for learning and discovery. SEARCH teachers work within the classroom to stimulate curiosity, practice problem solving strategies, incorporate cooperative learning activities, provide opportunities for students to use higher level thinking skills, and to identify students with exceptional ability. During the lessons the primary classroom teacher makes observations to gain insight into the students' various skills, strengths, and learning styles. Both teachers work cooperatively to recognize and develop the potential for excellence in each student. The SEARCH teacher is available to assist in the development of lesson plans and activities that promote higher level thinking, model or provide tips for differentiating instruction, work with small groups of students, and to offer enrichment to students who have been formally identified for gifted services. The Loudoun County SEARCH lessons are organized under the learning keys listed below and are aligned with the *Virginia Standards of Learning*.

**MAIN TOPICS:**

Perceiving

Reasoning

Connecting

Creating

Evaluating

**CREDIT INFO:** N/A





# Course Syllabus

SY 2008-09

**COURSE TITLE:** Gifted Education (FUTURA) Grades 4-5

**PREREQUISITE:** N/A

**DESCRIPTION:** The Loudoun County FUTURA program seeks to enhance and to develop the intellect of fourth and fifth grade students who have been formally identified as generally intellectually gifted. Students attend the FUTURA center for one day each week and are immersed in lessons that correlate the themes Structures and Systems to the *Virginia Standards of Learning Objectives* for the core content areas. FUTURA teachers stress higher level thinking skills that include analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Differentiation of instruction is key in planning the learning activities to meet the individual needs of the exceptional students. The FUTURA teachers provide opportunities for the students to stimulate curiosity, engage actively in problem solving, discuss current trends and issues in society, work cooperatively, create, debate, and to promote special interests.

**MAIN TOPICS:** Structures

Systems

Essential Understandings

**CREDIT INFO:** N/A





# Course Syllabus

SY 2008-09

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**COURSE TITLE:** Gifted Education (SPECTRUM) Grades 6-8

**PREREQUISITE:** N/A

**DESCRIPTION:** The Spectrum program is designed to meet the needs of middle school students who have been formally identified as generally intellectually gifted. SPECTRUM is offered as an elective for identified students. The SPECTRUM teachers stress higher level thinking skills that include analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Differentiation of instruction is key in planning learning activities to meet individual needs of the exceptional students. The SPECTRUM teachers provide opportunities for the students to expand intellectual curiosity, develop initiative and leadership, participate in national academic competitions, engage actively in problem solving, work cooperatively, and to promote special interests.

**MAIN TOPICS:** Mysteries  
Communication  
Survivals  
Cooperative Problem Solving  
Economics

**CREDIT INFO:** N/A





# Course Syllabus

SY 2008-09

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**COURSE TITLE:** Gifted Education (SIGNET) Grades 9-12

**PREREQUISITE:** N/A

**DESCRIPTION:** Due to the busy nature of high school students and their challenging curriculum, the students take part in special events that are offered throughout the year. Students may opt to take honors and Advanced Placement courses through “self-selection.” Some students attend Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. Others take part in summer opportunities including the state of Virginia residential Governor’s Schools in Science, Foreign Language, Visual and Performing Arts, Agriculture and the Humanities.

**MAIN TOPICS:** N/A

**CREDIT INFO:** N/A

