

All About G/T Seminars

It's a great year to get involved! G/T instructional seminars are designed to extend student interests beyond the regular classroom. In these seminars, students develop a broad range of advanced level skills for in-depth study and creation of a product or presentation. Many of the seminars will include guest speakers or field trip opportunities, so students can work with experts in an area of interest. Since the seminars meet during the school day, you must be responsible for all make-up work, and keep grades up in your classes. **Seminars are open to ALL STUDENTS.**

If you are interested in *one or two* of these seminars, please reach out to Mrs. Chelidona to check availability.

Seminar Descriptions:

Book Club

Do you love to read for pleasure? Are you one of those kids who can't put a book down? Then, this is the seminar for you. You will read high interest and challenging books, discuss them with other students from school, then discuss them with students from other Howard County middle schools. This seminar provides an opportunity for you to engage in meaningful discussions around a variety of literary works with different genres, authors, and subject matter. You will strengthen critical reading and leadership skills, hear insightful peer perspectives, and have fun. Each year, a new list of books are selected and both school and countywide discussions are made available to students.

Creative Writing (Sept- Feb.)

Do you like to write stories? Poetry? Creative Writing provides creative writers with the opportunity to produce authentic writing based on your interests. Everyone has a story to tell! Creative writing provides different ways to share your feelings and views in a variety of forms ranging from poems to short stories. Be creative and have fun playing with words and saying what you want to say because everyone has a story. In this seminar, we will focus on areas like story elements, figurative language, generating ideas, and diction. This seminar will help you prepare your works to be published.

Debate (Sept- Jan.- all debate; competitive debate continues through April)

Are you good at arguing your point and persuading others? In debate, students research current issues, write argumentative speeches, and organize arguments. They use public speaking skills and etiquette to refute and close their arguments. Join this seminar to engage in meaningful, persuasive discourse about contemporary issues, thereby strengthening your leadership, critical thinking, and presentation skills. This seminar prepares participating students for high school, and potentially collegiate, debate teams in later years.

Morning News Production/ TV Studio

Are you excited to learn about what happens in your school and community in fun and engaging ways? Being a part of the school television crew might be just what you need. Join this seminar to work as part of a team to write, film, and produce a weekly news program. You will experience producing a news story from script to screen! You will develop "behind the scenes" skills like technology, research, and production along with on "on air" skills like public speaking. The school-based television show gives a public "voice" to the students in our school and serves as an example of a high-quality product wherein students emulate practicing professionals in the broadcasting field. *New* This year, students may also choose to write a student newsletter that will be posted in Canvas under the "Morning News Module"

Photography

Are you ready to go beyond words on paper and tell a story through a photograph? In this seminar, learn how to capture the power of emotion and someone's story in a single frame or a series of images. You will learn about how to express yourself through photographic composition and form. Whether you're a new photographer or consider yourself an expert, you'll have fun expressing yourself in a snap. Through this seminar, you will complete hands-on visual exercises in which you weave 21st century technology skills with art and the creative process. You will learn how to effectively use digital media to tell a story, elicit a reaction, or communicate an idea.

Forensics (Spring Semester)

This seminar will apply the scientific method to principles of crime scene investigations with a few hands-on labs. Students will learn about topics like fingerprinting, forensic photography, blood typing, DNA analysis, and more. Students will discover the importance of proper collection, preservation, analysis of physical evidence, and the steps of crime scene reconstruction.

S.T.E.A.M:

Do you love coding and robotics? Let your imagination go with programming commands and games, and watch these little robots respond! We will use Little Bits, MicroBits, and drones to learn about inputs and outputs, loops and conditionals. There's a variety of code that students can use to challenge and engage! Students can also adapt, design and engineer with our engineering kits and 3-D printing.

Stock Market Game (SMG): (Spring Semester) Have you ever wondered what it would be like to invest in your favorite company? This is a fun chance to see how your investments would pay off! in this seminar, you would work with a team of 2-6 friends and collaborate on possible investments with \$100,000 of virtual money. There's even some chances to win prizes and actual cash with some contests through the Stock Market Game. Have some PVMS friends in mind to play along with you if you want to sign up for this collaborative seminar.

Have questions?

Contact Monica Chelidona, GT Resource Teacher: mchelidona@hcpss.org