

ACCELERATED CLASSES COLIN POWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL ~ 2018/2019

VISION OF THE GATE PROGRAM

If we teach children everything we know, their knowledge is limited to ours. If we teach children to think, their knowledge is *limitless*.

Michael Baker, President - The Critical Thinking Mind

CREATING A CULTURE OF LIFELONG LEARNERS

- ❖ Develop an environment which emphasizes “No fear of failure”
- ❖ Develop and answer questions by analyzing, evaluating, connecting, applying and reflecting the given information across all curricular areas
- ❖ Justify opinions with reasons based on text evidence and parallels of ethical issues
- ❖ Implement the Socratic Seminar (Students seek deeper understanding of complex ideas)
- ❖ Self-reflect when all discussion perspectives have been completed
- ❖ Think efficiently and write concisely to express their perspective
- ❖ Develop a learning continuum of critical thinking skills that will develop throughout each subsequent grade level
- ❖ Develop an environment which meets each child’s educational needs so exceptional achievement in school will continue to flourish and offer the best chance for each child to reach their full potential and become college and career ready

CURRICULUM

- ❖ Accelerated classes will be offered in Lit/ELA, Math, Social Studies and Science
- ❖ Innovative research-based projects will be completed utilizing multi-faceted forms of technology
- ❖ District purchased ELA, Math, SS and Science curricula will be used and supplemented with gifted resources and activities provided by the gifted coach
- ❖ Supplemental activities will be infused into the curriculum emphasizing critical thinking skills
- ❖ Pacing of learning standards will not only progress quickly, but will delve into deeper and richer content

STUDENT PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

Students recommended for accelerated classes are expected to exhibit exemplary work habits and study skills, complete assignments in a timely manner, sustain high levels of involvement in activities, and maintain quarterly letter grades of (C) or higher in each accelerated subject area. Accelerated grades are weighted on a 5.0 grading scale. Those students who earn letter grades of (C-) or lower at the end of 2nd or 4th quarters, will be removed from that class. At the semester break, these students will be placed in classrooms that best meet his/her needs. Parents may withdraw their student from an accelerated class at any time, with Principal’s approval.