



Nathan Hale Middle School

Where Learners Today Make Leaders Tomorrow

Nathan Hale Middle School is a student-centered learning community serving seventh and eighth grade young leaders in an environment which promotes critical thinking, creative problem solving and effective leadership skills. Students have opportunities to explore and expand their leadership, communication and technology skills. These extended opportunities will enhance the learning environment at Nathan Hale Middle School and increase the proficiency of students in core academic subjects and mastery of 21st century skills, including oral and written presentations, problem-solving, teamwork, leadership and application of technology in real-life situations.

Students will have opportunities that allow them to explore interests and apply talents to career possibilities and pathways. The tradition of high expectations for all students and staff will be strengthened by ensuring student achievement of both district content standards and extra value standards unique to the curriculum of Nathan Hale Middle School.

Community and business partners join forces with a dedicated staff of professionals and families to ensure that Nathan Hale students are provided a rich educational experience, capitalizing on their strengths and talents as young leaders.

Goals

- ★ A common instructional framework will guide curriculum, teaching, assessment, and the learning climate.
- ★ Curriculum, assessment, professional development, and leadership will be sustained over time to allow teachers to build upon and refine their teaching methods.
- ★ Instructional program coherence (themes or content taught across the curriculum areas) will be measured using multiple information sources that reflect current research on learning and cognition.
- ★ The educational day will be redesigned using flexible scheduling that allows for a supportive environment built upon student needs, prior knowledge, experiences and interests.
- ★ Students will benefit from the establishment of strong community involvement through collaboration and partnerships with families, agencies and organizations.
- ★ Staff will participate in purposeful professional development and collaborative planning to support innovative, engaged students learning in an extended time environment.
- ★ Students will develop leadership skills that support their strengths, interests and talents in a variety of ways that could include sports, leadership classes, business partnerships, the fine arts and technology.
- ★ An interdisciplinary approach to teaching and learning will be used that helps students make connections between and among their various courses and to real life.
- ★ Students will be involved in enrichment opportunities that foster a wide range of skills across developmental domains (cognitive, social, emotional and physical).

Special Program Features

The Nathan Hale program will include the following special programs that are unique to the school:

- An in-depth study of leadership in both seventh and eighth grades that utilizes community and business partnerships and builds strong communication skills
- Course offerings and experiences that teach students to communicate, collaborate, compete and connect...skills vital to success in the 21st century workplace
- Exploratory offerings that provide students with opportunities to experience additional study in the areas of:
 - Career and post-secondary education exploration through on-site shadowing opportunities that further capitalize upon partnerships with local universities, businesses, and government agencies
 - Critical thinking and problem solving taught through use of the Socratic teaching/learning model
 - Involvement in team and individual sports that focuses on skill attainment, goal setting/monitoring, and teamwork development of wellness skills that will contribute to improved life quality and the ability to make sound decisions pertaining to physical, mental and emotional health
 - Fine arts management—an in-depth study of the “behind the scenes” communication and leadership skills needed to be the curator of a museum, choreographer of a professional production, conductor of an orchestra, director of a choir, choreographer of a play, or manager of a band
 - Information management- examines the role that communication skills and technological knowledge play together in project management in the IT world.
 - Service learning-utilize communication, technology and leadership skills to “give back to our community” through tutorial enrichment and support offered to elementary school students and collaboration with not-for-profit groups in the community
 - Communication and presentation skills—a practicum in the real-life application of skills that set leaders apart in the work force, including etiquette, oral and written presentations and interviewing skills, culminating in a presentation competition sponsored by Nathan Hale Middle School
 - A focus on support of the interdisciplinary approach to teaching and learning that helps students make connections between and among their various courses;
 - Opportunities for students to showcase their skills and knowledge in their exploratory studies through presentations, demonstrations, exhibits and special programming