

**Foreign
Language and
Performing
Arts**

The following classes or groups are taught during the day, as Expanded Learning Time classes, or as after school groups. Be a leader today and be involved.

Spanish

Advanced Orchestra

Beginning Band

Advanced Band

Music Composition and Recording

Chorus

Drama

Unity Choir

Musical Theater



**Leadership
and
Social Justice**

House of Representatives

Patriot Asset Leaders for Social Justice

Student Council

Youth Volunteer Club

**Athletics
and Clubs**

The following teams are available to Nathan Hale Magnet students: basketball; cross country; football; soccer; swimming; track and field; volleyball, and wrestling.

A variety of clubs sponsored by Nathan Hale staff complement the varied interests of the students.

Students will be notified of upcoming opportunities through daily announcements and by their classroom teachers.

Involvement in many of the clubs, competitions, ensembles and other activities will require class pullouts and/or after school meetings.

Supported by the Gifted and
Talented Office of Omaha Public
Schools

Nathan Hale Magnet
Middle School for
Leadership and
Social Justice

**Gifted and Talented
Department
2014-2015**

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“Where LEARNERS today make
LEADERS tomorrow!”

**Activities,
Competitions,
and Groups**

Identification: The Omaha Public Schools' method of identifying gifted and talented students is modeled after NAGC (National Association of Gifted Children). Our identification encompasses five areas: **Intellectual** (130+ performance on an IQ test), **Academic** (above 95% performance on any subtest of the California Achievement Test), **Creative, Leadership, and Visual/Performing Arts**. The former three identifiers will emerge through opportunities found at each school. Middle School is an opportunity for students to self-select areas that will allow them to explore and capitalize on their strengths, showcase their talents, and excel. Whether it is found in their course work, a competition, a contest, or an extra curricular activity, students' giftedness and/or talents can blossom and develop at Nathan Hale Magnet Middle School.

Differentiation: In each and every Nathan Hale classroom, we strive to meet the needs of all learners. Differentiation of instruction is the modification of the curriculum to match the abilities, needs, learning styles, and interests of our students. This is accomplished through the use of instructional strategies that will challenge all students. Pre-assessment, rubrics, pacing, high level questioning, scaffolding, compacting, and the acceleration of materials are all strategies that stretch the minds of our high ability learners. Nathan Hale's faculty uses a variety of these strategies to help students take control of their learning and prepare for a rigorous high school curriculum.

Rigor and Relevance: Rigor means that critical thinking takes place on a regular basis. It's a process that is a combined effort between teacher and student and requires high expectations from both. Instruction should engage students in challenging coursework that stretches them to go beyond just understanding. Rigor is made possible by relevance. Relevance focuses on the interest of the students and the real world connections as it engages students in the learning process. The Nathan Hale faculty believes in this concept and strives to incorporate this into our classrooms.

Socratic Seminars: This technique is a catalyst for lively discussion that lends to a deeper understanding of issues, themes, and ideas. A Socratic seminar, named for the great philosopher Socrates, will provoke students' thoughts, promote dialogue, and foster reflective and critical thinking. Students read and prepare open-ended, high-level questions based on an assigned text. In a round table format, students will pose questions, share viewpoints, support their opinions, agree, and disagree. Students are in control of the process with the teacher observing and providing support. The seminar closes with a written reflection based on the discussion.

Honors By Contract (HBC) This option gives students an opportunity to take greater responsibility for their learning. When participating in Honors By Contract, students will be in a regular classroom, but doing honors-level work. These challenges across the board will prepare students for the rigors of honors and Advanced Placement courses in high school. Those students who choose to exercise the Honors by Contract option promise that they are motivated to: study the class topic in greater depth and intensity; satisfactorily complete the work assigned for the honors credit, and dedicate the needed energy to complete their tasks. Honors by Contract components include: experiential learning opportunities; scholarly projects; discovery workshops; Socratic seminars, and student-led conferences. Contracted honors work will reflect work that exceeds the traditional class expectations. Students will contract for HBC at the semester. Nathan Hale Magnet offers HBC in Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies.

Nathan Hale Magnet's focus of Social Justice stresses the importance of recognizing other cultures, understanding our government, and being actively engaged in your community. The courses listed below are only a few of the many electives students have to choose from relating to these topics.

- AfricanAmericanHistoryChallenge**
- AgentsOfChange**
- AmericaAm**
- DemocratidValues**
- EnvironmentalImpact**
- ExploraJapaneSeCulture**
- ExploraLatinCulture**
- MulticulturalExcursionAdvanced**
- OurCourts**
- PayForward**
- Sociology**
- WithLiberty&JusticeForAll**

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In the following activities, competitions, and groups students are recommended for, test into, and/or sign up for as an Expanded Learning Time class, all of which may have competitions and field trips associated with them. Announcements and invitations will be given throughout the school year for these groups, activities, and competitions.

7th and 8th grade Leadership Team

7th and 8th grade Scholars

African American History Challenge

Book Blasters

Geography Bee

History Day

National Junior Honor Society

Poetry Slams

Quiz Bowl

SAME/SMP

Science Olympiad

Spelling Bee

DUKE Talent Identification Program

Think Tank