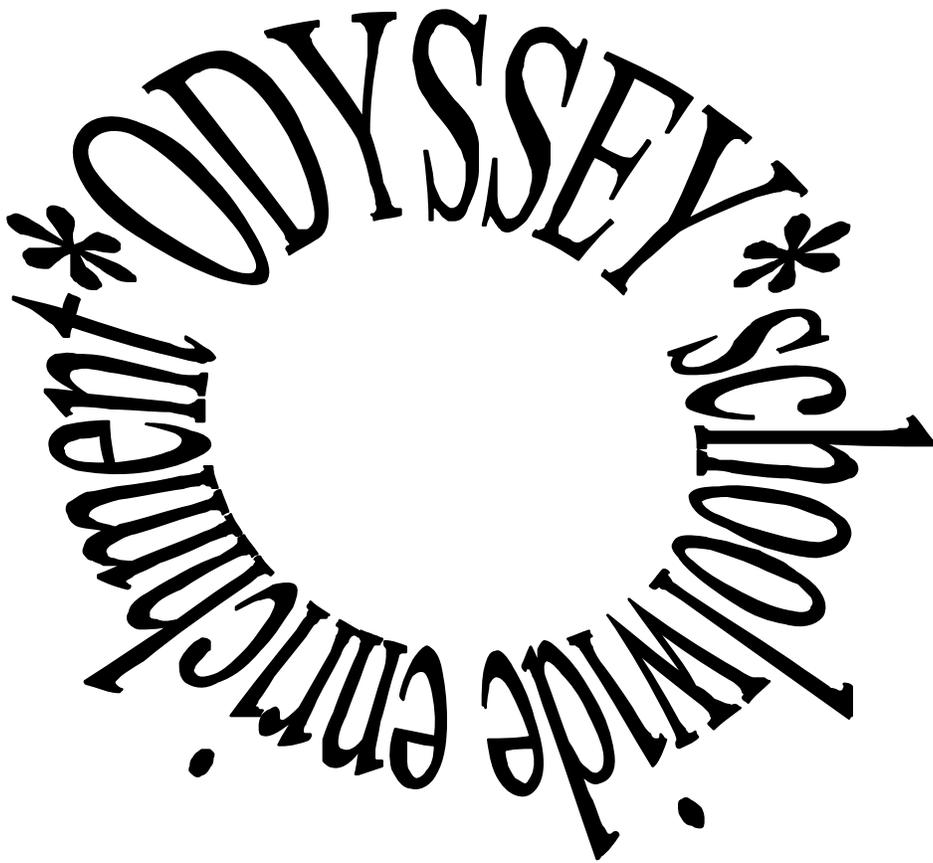


Odyssey School-Wide Enrichment Handbook



Plattsburgh City School District

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Introduction

The Odyssey School-Wide Enrichment Program was established in the 1980's. Originally called the Special Academic Program, it catered to a specific group of students identified through tests and measures.

Over the years, Odyssey has grown to provide enrichment opportunities for all students through a variety of curriculum components. Student selection now takes into account yearly test scores, and classroom and Odyssey teacher recommendations. While adopting the Renzuli Model for gifted education (Appendix A), Type I, Type II, and Type III educational opportunities are available to students.

Type I Activities

Type I activities provide all students with enrichment.

Project Think

Project Think is an ungraded 6-8 week program based on Gardener's Multiple Intelligence Theory (Appendix B). During 35-40 minute sessions of whole-class instruction, students in grades K through 5 develop creative and higher order thinking skills based on Bloom's Taxonomy (Appendix C) by participating in a variety of activities that focus on The Seven Ways of Knowing. Project Think also provides the Odyssey teacher with a chance to see all students, and potentially identify students for Type II and Type III activities.

Kids' Press

Based on New York State's learning standards for English Language Arts, Kids' Press provides Language Arts enrichment focusing on the development of communication, computer, and leadership skills, as well as furnishing a vehicle for publication of student writing and art.

Students select their involvement in Kids' Press. The program may be available from September through May to all students in grades 2-5 on designated days

during recess. The product of these sessions is a publication of student art and literature.

Kent-Delord House Local History Grant

In conjunction with the New York State Council on the Arts and the Kent-Delord House Museum, all fourth grade students have the opportunity to experience local history, art, and culture of the 18th and 19th century. The Odyssey teacher facilitates local Artists-in-Residence as they visit classrooms weekly and teach students through music, photography, woodworking, and other art forms for a 6 week period. Students visit the museum and learn about the Delord family and their experiences in Plattsburgh. This component culminates with an outdoor event at the Kent-Delord House, where students share their knowledge and projects specific to their assigned artist-in-residence.

Teamwork Counts

Teamwork Counts is a one-day event for all fifth graders. Teams of students play a variety of games that test critical and creative thinking as well as problem solving strategies. Teamwork skills are also tested.

Type II Activities

Type II activities provide enrichment for small groups of students with specific talents. Students recommended for the following pull-out programs should exhibit these characteristics:

- be a self-motivated learner
- have a strong academic work ethic
- show responsibility by completing assignments in a timely fashion
- completes all classroom assignments.

Math in Action

Math in Action is a flexible, highly challenging pull-out program for students in grades 2-5 that runs from October through May. Students meet 30-40 minutes weekly during the school day with the Odyssey teacher.

Participation in Math in Action is determined by both the classroom and Odyssey teachers. Criteria for student participation includes above grade level ability in math and task commitment. Class size is limited to 12 students, and waiting lists are developed when necessary.

Art in Action

Art in Action is a pull-out program for students in grades K-5 that runs from October through May. Students meet weekly, before or after school, for 35-45 minutes. This program may also take the form of shorter, six-week sessions that focus on a particular aspect of the visual arts.

Participation in Art in Action is determined by the classroom teacher, as well as the Odyssey and art teachers. Criteria for student participation includes above grade level ability in the visual arts and task commitment. Class size is limited to 12 students, and waiting lists are developed when necessary.

Language Arts Groups

Language Arts Groups are pull-out sessions for students in grades K-5 that run at various times throughout the year. Students meet 35-40 minutes weekly during the school day.

Participation in Language Arts groups is determined by both the classroom and Odyssey teachers. Criteria for selection includes above grade level ability in Language Arts and task commitment. Class size is limited to 12 students, and waiting lists are developed when necessary.

Global Village

Global Village is a 15 week social studies and research pull-out component of the Odyssey program. Third, fourth, and fifth grade students meet weekly for 40 minutes. Individually or in groups, students research and study various aspects of a particular continent, country, or state. Throughout this component, research skills are taught in the context of the individual projects. Research projects are displayed at an evening culminating event, the Global Village Celebration.

Participation in this component is determined by both the classroom and Odyssey teacher. Criteria for selection includes strong performance at or above grade level in language arts and social studies and task commitment.

Science Fair

Science Fair is an Odyssey component for all students in grades 3-5 that are seeking an opportunity to research and present information on a science topic of their choice. During this 6-8 week at-home independent study project, the Odyssey teacher meets periodically with students to facilitate their research. Finished projects are displayed at an evening culminating event.

Type III Activities

Individual Educational Programs

Approximately 5% of the student population at any given time will fall into the category of academically gifted. This segment of the school population is served by the Odyssey program through individual or small group instruction. The form of instruction is based on the needs of those students.

Assessment

An Odyssey insert for report cards has been developed for all students in Type II and Type III activities. Grades are based on task commitment and academic performance.

Schedule of Odyssey Program Components

The following is a general schedule of Odyssey Program components and their placement within the academic calendar. Changes in scheduling may be necessary depending upon other program schedules and characteristics specific to each elementary building.

September

- Project Think sessions begin for grades 2-5
- Kids' Press begins for grades 2-5 (Momot)
- Science Fair begins for grades 3-5 (Momot)

October

- Math in Action begins for grades 2-5
- Language Arts Groups begin for grades 3-5
- Language Arts Groups begin for grade 2 (Bailey-Oak)
- Type III programs begin

November

- Art in Action begins for grades K-5
- Culmination of Science Fair (Momot)

December

- Global Village sessions begin for grades 3-5
- Language Arts Groups begin for grades K-2
- Project Think for grade 1 begins (Bailey-Oak)

April

- Culmination of Global Village sessions: Global Village Celebration
- Project Think for grades K-1 begins (Momot)
- Project Think for grade K begins (Bailey-Oak)
- Science Fair sessions begin for grades 3-5 (Bailey-Oak)
- Kent-Delord House Local History Grant begins for grade 4

May

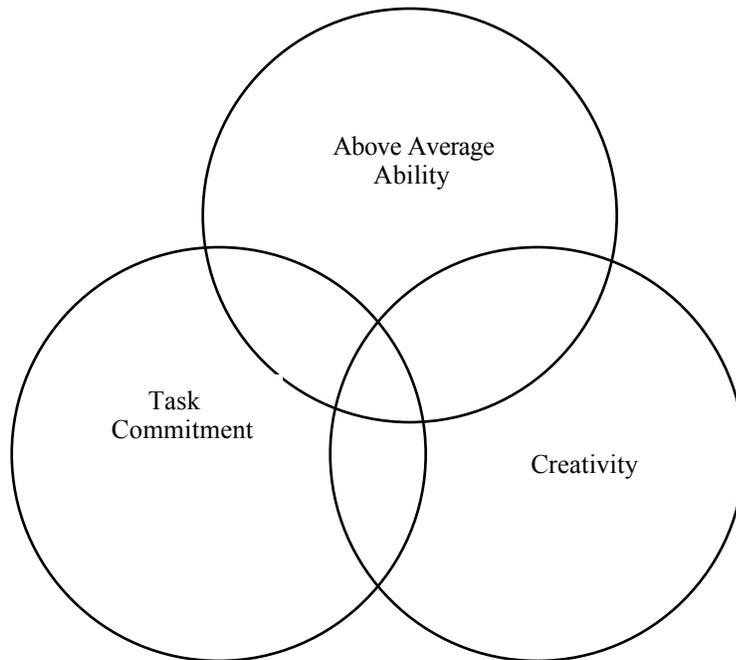
- Kids' Press ends the last week in May
- Math in Action ends the last week in May
- Language Arts Groups end the last week in May
- Art in Action ends the last week in May

June

- Culmination of Science Fair (Bailey-Oak)
- Kent-Delord House Local History Grant Culminating Event
- Teamwork Counts for grade 5
- Type III programs end

Appendix A

Renzuli's Model of Gifted Education



Appendix B

Gardner's Seven Ways of Knowing (Multiple Intelligences)

1. Logical/Mathematical Intelligence
2. Visual/Spatial Intelligence
3. Body/Kinesthetic Intelligence
4. Musical/Rhythmic Intelligence
5. Interpersonal Intelligence
6. Intrapersonal Intelligence
7. Verbal/Linguistic Intelligence

Appendix C

Bloom's Taxonomy of Education

1. Level 1: Knowledge
2. Level 2: Comprehension
3. Level 3: Application
4. Level 4: Analysis
5. Level 5: Synthesis
6. Level 6: Evaluation