



AVONDALE SCHOOLS

Gifted Cohort Program

Welcome to the Gifted Cohort

Building the Foundation for Where You Are Going

For Families of Avondale 9th Grade Gifted Cohort Students

MORE THAN ACADEMICS

We Are Building the Whole Gifted Learner

Gifted learners need academic challenge AND life & learning skills that grow alongside them.



Self-Regulation

Managing emotions, energy, and impulses under pressure



Executive Function

Planning, focus, working memory, and flexibility



Identity Development

Who am I? What do I value? What do I want to build?



Healthy Risk-Taking

Tolerating productive struggle and recovering from mistakes



Collaboration

Listening, problem-solving, and working with others



Future Planning

Connecting today's choices to tomorrow's possibilities

THE COHORT CLASSES

Your Schedule. Your Community.

These three courses form the heart of your gifted cohort experience. You will share these classes with your cohort peers all year.

2nd Hour



High School Transitions

A required freshman course — redesigned for gifted learners

This is more than an orientation. Your student will explore their identity, build executive function skills, practice self-advocacy, and begin connecting who they are to where they are going. They'll also take part in a book study on Man's Search for Meaning by Viktor Frankl. Think of it as your student's gifted cohort home base.

3rd Hour



HN U.S. History

Honors-level, differentiated for depth and complexity

History is not just facts - it is questions, patterns, and meaning-making. This course challenges students to think critically, debate ideas, and connect the past to the present at the level your mind craves.

7th Hour



HN English 9

Honors-level, differentiated for gifted readers and writers

Literature, writing, and ideas explored at depth. Students will read complex texts, craft strong arguments, and develop your voice as a thinker and communicator -with peers who push you to go further.

Behind the Scenes: Our GT Team's Professional Learning

How your 9th grader's teachers prepared for this school year

1 Who Was in the Room

- Woodland Elementary GT K-1 team
- GATE Magnet teachers & admin
- AHS 9th grade GT teachers & admin
- District leaders Jen Wilson & Coleen Brunni
- Guest expert Mark Talaga, gifted-education counselor

2 What We Focused On

- National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) standards
- Social-emotional needs unique to gifted learners
- Building stronger community among gifted students & families
- Continued Partnering throughout the year

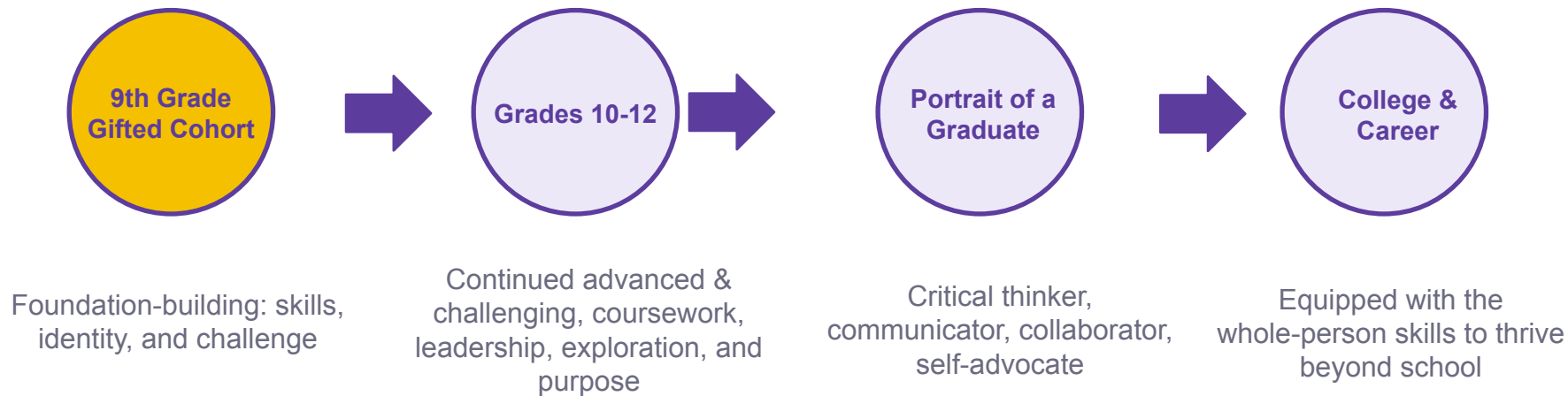
3 What It Means for Your Student

- More voice & choice in coursework
- SEL check-ins built into daily routines
- Instruction that meets both intellectual depth and emotional needs
- A community that understands and celebrates who they are

Avondale Gifted & Talented • We Are Avondale!

THE BIGGER PICTURE

Connecting Today to Tomorrow



Michigan Portrait of a Graduate

Communicate & Collaborate ♦ Argument & Reasoning ♦ Solve Problems ♦ Technology & Tools ♦ Social & Emotional Learning

These are Michigan's official Portrait of a Graduate skills — and every element of your gifted cohort experience is intentionally designed to build them.

YOUR GIFTED COHORT TEAM

Who's On Your Team

CLASSROOM TEACHERS

Ashton Blakemore

HN U.S. History

Katie Osborne

High School Transitions

Emily Jarema

HN English 9

COORDINATION & GIFTED SUPPORT

Jennifer Wilson

Gifted Transitions & Accelerated Pathways Coordinator

Michelle Gierman

Gifted Education Coordinator

LEADERSHIP & ADMINISTRATION

Carson Ratliff

Assistant Principal

Patrice Howard

Assistant Principal

Doug Wilson

Principal

Coleen Brunni

Asst. Superintendent of Instruction



CRISIS & WELLBEING SUPPORT

School Counselors & Social Workers — available for social-emotional and mental health support



We Are in This Together

Your partnership makes this program possible — and powerful.

- ★ Your students are mingling right now — that community starts today
- ★ Check Out Cohort Gifted Smore: <https://app.smores.com/n/rq84n>

We Are Avondale!!



Reach out with your questions by email:

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douglas.wilson@avondaleschools.org; carson.ratliff@avondaleschools.org;

GO mingle and connect with people!

