

### **What are some of the outdoor activities that students can engage in?**

All Hemingway students are provided the opportunity to go on outdoor trips ranging from one to five days in length.

Mountain Bike Club-Meets weekly in the Fall and Spring and all students are welcome

Climbing Club-Meets weekly to climb at our school's climbing wall and students have the opportunity to take part in an outdoor climbing trip.

Backcountry Basics Elective Class gives students the opportunity to learn and practice skills used to play in the mountains safely! We use beacons, airbags, rope rescue equipment, GPS, the climbing wall! Guest speakers include the SNRA, Sawtooth Avalanche Center and more!

### **What accommodations are made for ski team students?**

Because most ski team students leave at 1:45pm for practice, we have placed our elective period from 1:45-2:30. In other words, ski team students will not miss any core-class instruction. If a student misses school for a ski competition, teachers will work with the student to ensure that he/she does not miss any critical work.

### **Do students have the opportunity to take a foreign language?**

Yes! Students will take a semester of a foreign language each year.

### **What does the required Art and Engineering class look like?**

Art in Engineering is a unique class at Hemingway STEAM School. We've elevated the subjects of Art and Engineering to core class status - you get this class every day! Students will engage with units about coding, painting, bridge buildings, sculpture, electronics, and drawing, just to name a few. It's an exciting class which truly explores the meaning of STEAM.

### **Is there academic advancement in Math and ELA?**

Yes and Yes!

There is advancement in Math as the middle school offers classes up through Algebra I (high school credit). Incoming students who show strong number sense; strong computational skills; strong fractional and proportional understanding; and try to solve problems in a variety of ways will be considered for advancement. In addition to the above characteristics a positive teacher recommendation and above-average test scores may be considered in the placement of a student in an advanced math class.

In their ELA classes, students who require academic advancement are extended using above grade level materials. They are pushed to produce above grade level writing with more complex ideas, demonstrating a greater depth of knowledge. They also create individualized reading goals which challenge students in a personalized manner.

### **How does the school accommodate students with special learning needs?**

With the current model, most of the Special Education students receive their services with their case manager (either Dani or Mike) for one full period in their daily schedule. This period takes the place of their world language course. During their time in the learning center, they receive instruction on their IEP goals, as well as support on grade level work from their other classes when there is time/opportunities to address that course work. Depending on the specific student and their disability/ level of need, they also receive support in their general education classes from a Special Education teacher or paraprofessional (push-in support). When appropriate, a one period model is not used and a student may spend portions of each/most of their core classes with support staff throughout different parts of their school day. (Not as typical but one student currently receives services this way).

### **Is there a Gifted and Talented Program at middle school? How does it work?**

Yes, GATE services are provided in middle school as an elective. You must REGISTER to take a GATE class. There is NO pullout program. GATE classes are taught by a certified GATE teacher, (Christina Huus). These classes are designed to have faster pacing, go more in-depth, be more complex, more challenging, and to promote higher levels of creative and critical thinking than students generally experience in their day-to-day classes. They are also designed to address GATE student social and emotional needs similar to GATE programs in elementary school. [Other Advanced Opportunity & Elective Classes](#) in middle school are offered to provide services. Additionally, GATE designated classes are designed to help you prepare for the more rigorous classes at the High School level.

Beyond teaching GATE classes, the GATE teacher advocates for the student's academic needs and provides emotional support as needed at school. It is important for proactive and open communication between students, parents, and teachers to ensure the best experience from middle school! GATE CLASSES form a connection to get to know students and their needs.

Further Questions?

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