



**Highly Gifted
and
Advanced Academy**

**2500 Minnesota Drive
Anchorage, AK 99503
<http://romig.asdk12.org>**



STATE GEOBEE CHAMPION



ACADEMY BOWLING TRIP



WACKY OLYMPICS



PI DAY CELEBRATION



CONNECTION WITH A NATGEO EXPLORER IN KENYA



STEM CAREER DAY



ROLLERCOASTERS



PI RECITATION OFF - OVER 250 DIGITS MEMORIZED



POWERPLANT VISIT



CRASH TEST DUMMIES



SCRAMBLE STANLEY

Romig Middle School has multiple options for students in need of advancement and enrichment, all taught by the same core teachers sharing the same students.

The Romig Middle School Highly Gifted Program is for students who qualify according to the district criteria of testing in the 98th percentile or higher on one ability and one achievement test and have these records on file with the district office. For more information about testing, please contact the Anchorage School District gifted office. These students are grouped together in core language arts and science classes.

For more information on Highly Gifted, turn to page 4

Students who have MAP Reading and Math scores trending at or above the 75th percentile and are needing the challenge of acceleration and enrichment in middle school are placed into Tier 1 Advanced classes. These classes follow a similar curriculum to grade level classes, but with an added depth and a focus on application and discussion.

For more information on the core subject area classes turn to page 5

Romig Middle School Highly Gifted Program

The Romig Highly Gifted Program is a connected community of students, families, teachers, and staff within the greater Romig Middle School community that focuses on the academic and social-emotional needs and growth of highly gifted students through acceleration, enrichment, collaboration, and an increased emphasis on the application and connection of curriculum between disciplines and its relevance both locally and globally. The Romig Highly Gifted Program believes in equity: that all students deserve to grow and to learn and practice the skills and dispositions needed to succeed in whatever future they choose.

The Romig Highly Gifted Program supports this mission by:

- Scheduling highly gifted students in language arts and science classes together (currently the only middle school in ASD to do this)
- Scheduling highly gifted students together with four shared core academic teachers (currently the only middle school in ASD to do this)
- Understanding and supporting the unique math needs of highly gifted learners
- Accelerating and enriching the Anchorage School District curriculum in an age appropriate manner with the highly gifted learner as a guide to access and nurture their inherent curiosity and global empathy
- Embracing the divergent nature of the highly gifted brain to provide more choice in expression of learning within the frameworks of standards and mastery as well as the removal of a cap on learning
- Helping students with new leadership and collaboration skills for the 21st Century
- Aiding students in the organizational skills and habits needed to find and continue success in their formal education and beyond
- Working to increase students' global competencies through authentic learning experiences
- Differentiating for the divergent highly gifted learner in all subjects to emphasize application and connection of concepts over repetition and memorization
- Emphasizing learning and teaching as a process, not solely a product
- Continued professional development and collaboration among educators within subjects, grade levels, and the whole program, with the highly gifted learner in mind
- Building strong relationships with families to provide the best possible environment for individualized student growth
- Emphasizing the importance of a balanced educational and life experience
- Working with other school staff such as counselors and administration to best serve highly gifted students and families
- Facilitating the development of collaboration skills and relationship building to address individual social needs

CORE SUBJECT CLASSES

Core classes at the middle school level are math, science, language arts and social studies.

Math: Students have a variety of levels of math to choose from. Math 7 is grade level math. We also offer pre-algebra, algebra, geometry, and currently offer algebra II. We also work with West High for those students needing Pre-Calc/Trig. Math placement is originally done by the student's 6th grade teacher and evaluated during the first quarter of 7th grade to ensure the student is the correct math class for their ability. Our goal is to properly place students in order to foster a love of math that will push them to take math all four years of high school and beyond.

Social Studies: Geography is the focus for 7th grade, with US History in 8th grade. Geography encompasses the five themes of geography as well as the history, culture, physical features, and current events of all the regions of the world. US History begins with first contact and goes until the Civil War. Students are pushed to make global connections as well as understand history in a deeper context.

Language Arts: The focus on language arts at the 7th grade level is reading, writing, and communicating. Students read a variety of works, from short stories and novels to texts and articles, and work on higher level discussions and application to their own lives as well as the world around them. Written expression is imbedded in all the work students do and they are pushed to not only work on mechanics, but take risks as writers and push themselves to improve.

Science: Both 7th and 8th grade science are integrated and include all the big content areas including biology, chemistry, physics, earth and space science, and geology. The focus is on a better understanding of the big ideas of how the natural world works as well as the process and principles of science and the engineering design process. Additional focus is put on connections, relationships, and applications, as well as the nature of science.

MathCOUNTS



MathCOUNTS is a national program providing students with enriched math experiences through individual and team competitions. For more information, visit the MathCOUNTS website at www.mathcounts.org

Romig has been competing in MathCOUNTS competitions for going on 20 years and has continually placed among the top both locally and statewide. Mathletes have traveled to such locales as Orlando, FL, Washington, DC, and Denver, CO, to participate in national MathCOUNTS competitions.

MathCOUNTS is not only an enriching mathematical experience, but helps students solve problems in novel and creative ways as well as collaborate in teams to solve difficult challenges. Participation in MathCOUNTS and the AMC (American Math Competition) has been linked to a greater success in future math classes as well as increases in standardized test scores such as the ACT and SAT.



In addition to MathCOUNTS, Romig has many opportunities, events and projects throughout the year.

STEM Career Day - Over 50+ presenters from the community come to Romig to interact with students on STEM Career Day. Presenters give an overview of their career, how STEM skills and knowledge are used in that career, and have students participate in a hands-on activity having to do with their career. Past presenters include the FBI, Alaska Crime Lab, UAA, UAF, APU, GCI, ConocoPhillips, Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP), BLM, USGS, AFD&G, Anchorage Museum, Women in Aviation, Bettisworth North, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Makar Eye Care... just to name a few. Careers represented covered aviation, computer programming, cognitive computing, hydrology, telecommunications, virtual/augmented reality, geology, marine biology, wetland biology, entomology, forensics, linguistics, and many, many more.

Model UN - Romig was the first middle school in Anchorage to participate in Model United Nations and is currently the only middle school with full participation. Students research issues and information on the countries of the world and then represent those countries in a general assembly meeting as well as various council meetings. Students learn the complex global connections of our modern world through research, debate, collaboration, and problem solving. Also as a part of Romig's Model UN, students participate as pages at UAA's Model UN which includes high school and college students. West High School students and UAA students come back to Romig to help with the middle school Model UN.

National History Day - In 8th grade students participate in National History Day. This is a nationwide effort to help students with research, critical thinking, problem solving, and collaboration, and communication skills. Romig students dive deep into history and present their findings through a variety of media to experts from the community. Many Romig students have gone to state and national levels of competition.

Mock Congress - At the end of 8th grade, students participate in a mock U.S. Congress. Each student creates a bill in a special designated committee. When bills pass committee, students debate them in an open Senate or House floor session. Bills that pass the House and Senate get moved to the President to sign. In 2018, Mayor Ethan Berkowitz participated as mock president.

We The People - 8th grade social studies students participate in mock congressional hearings in teams of 4 or 5. Beginning in the 3rd quarter, students write speeches based on constitutional questions. These speeches are read in front of judges and students debate their opinion of a particular issue dealing with the U.S. Constitution.

ELECTIVE CLASSES

Band
Choir
Orchestra
Jazz Band
Applied Technology
Home-Ec (Family and Consumer Science)
Art
Marine Biology
Video Production
Computer Technology
Debate (Includes competing against other middle schools)
Spanish
French
PE
Health

We also have students taking German and Pre-Calculus at West High School.

SPORTS

Romig offers both interscholastic (compete against other schools) and intramural (within Romig) sports.

Interscholastic include cross country running, volleyball, wrestling, cross country skiing, basketball, wrestling, softball, baseball, and track and field.

CLUBS AND EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Clubs include Dungeons and Dragons, Girls Who Code, Roots and Shoots Environmental Club, Afterschool Art Club, Longboard Making Club, and Book Lunch Group.

Competitions and other learning opportunities include Battle of the Books, Geography Bee, Spelling Bee, and the Science and Engineering Fair.

TEACHERS

John Bruce - Math

Traci Stanley - Language Arts

Amber Myers - Social Studies

Ben Walker - Science



LOTTERY INFORMATION AND DATES

Any student who qualifies for the Highly Gifted Program receives an automatic zone exemption to Romig Middle School, however, those NOT attending Rogers Park still need to complete a lottery application.

Rogers Park will handle all paperwork for Rogers Park highly gifted students.

Advanced students who are not already zoned for Romig and wanting to attend Romig must also complete a lottery application and are accepted on a space available basis.

Students who are zoned for Romig will be placed into appropriate classes after following the feeder school transition process through their 6th grade teachers.

The ASD Lottery page can be found at:

<http://asdk12.org/lottery>

The deadline for lottery applications is March 18th at 5 pm.

The Anchorage School District DOES NOT provide transportation for the middle school Highly Gifted Program at Romig. All students out of Romig attendance area will need to provide their own transportation.

Please do not hesitate to email with questions!

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Highly Gifted Information: <http://romiggifted.weebly.com>