Advanced Classes:
Honors Algebra* Honors Geometry*
Advanced Band* HLA *Inventions & Innovations *Sculpture* International Languages* Honors Art & Computer Aided Design*

Contests and Competitions:
Think Tank * Book Blasters * Spelling Bee * Math Counts * National History Day * African American History Challenge* Duke TIP Program * ACT Test* Newsbowl Competition

Activities and Clubs:
7th & 8th Grade Leadership Teams * Chess Club * Guitar Club * Manga Club * Student Council * National Junior Honor Society * Recycling Club * Garden Club * Memory Book Club * Jazz Band* Honor Roll* Trailblazer of the Month*Bridge* Drama * Dancing Classrooms

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Honors Language Arts (HLA) is a regularly scheduled, year-long class which meets every day in order to address the needs of students identified as gifted learners. Criteria for entry is 96% or higher on one or more selected CAT subtests, or a combination of other scores such as Test of Cognitive Skills (TCS) and teacher recommendation. HLA fulfills the English requirement for middle school. Students in HLA will read both fiction and non-fiction in a variety of genres. HLA also provides students the opportunity to critically explore topics in greater depth. Students learn sophisticated research techniques and explore a single, self-selected topic. The goal is to teach students to plan and sustain a long range topic. This also gives students a wider context in which to see their final project. Other aspects of HLA include writing, performing and problem solving.

**Differentiation:** In each and every Lewis & Clark 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. Lewis & Clark’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 Lewis & Clark faculty believes in this concept and strive 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.

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**Gifted and Talented Activities and Competitions**

**7th and 8th Grade Leadership Team:** Students who have demonstrated the positive qualities of a leader are nominated and chosen from each grade level. Students attend selected activities and workshops sponsored the OPS Gifted and Talented Department.

**7th and 8th Grade Scholars:** The students in the Scholars group are minority students selected by teacher nominations. They will gain support for personal and academic success, as well as participate in district wide activities focusing on academics.

**Book Blasters:** Book Blasters is a district-wide competition that involves a team of students who are responsible for reading approximately twenty selected novels. Teams that compete to see who reigns supreme in knowledge of the novel’s contents.

**History Day:** “National History Day is not just a day, it’s an experience.” Students are taught that history is not only names and dates. They are provided with an opportunity to analyze historical documents, refine presentation skills and move beyond the classroom and investigate history.

**National Junior Honor Society:** This program promotes the qualities of scholarship, leadership, service, character and citizenship, students are inducted at a ceremony in the spring of their 8th grade year.

**Spelling Bee:** The Spelling Bee is sponsored by the Omaha World Herald. Seventh and eight grade students take a written test to determine the field of eligible candidates.

**Talent Identification Program:** Eligible 7th graders have the options to enroll in the Duke University TIP Program. These students elect to take one of the two college entrance exams. Outstanding scores will be recognized nationally.

**Think Tank:** Chosen students compete in a district completion geared to finding real life solutions through the use of the creative problem solving process.