



Welcome



RHAM Middle School
Inquiry Academy
Parent Informational Meeting
January 9, 2023



MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAMS

- Traditional
- Inquiry Academy



RHAM Inquiry Academy



How do you learn best?

**Are you
passionate
about
learning?**

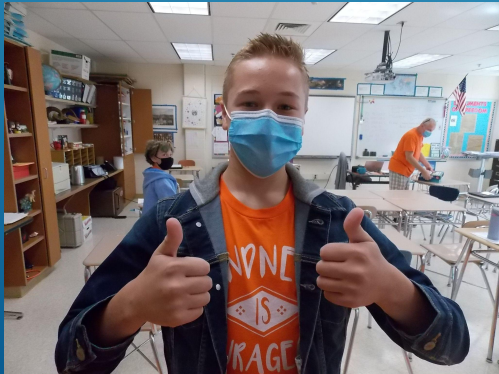
**Not sure a
traditional
approach is
right for you?**

**Want to
explore
new ideas?**

**Wishing for
more choice
in the
classroom?**

RHAM Inquiry Academy

- Inquiry learning model
- More individualized education
- Focus and explore areas of interest
- Multi-disciplinary approach
- Emphasizes communication, collaboration, creativity and innovation
- Research and problem-based learning
- Meets all the same competencies required for promotion to high school




How will it work?

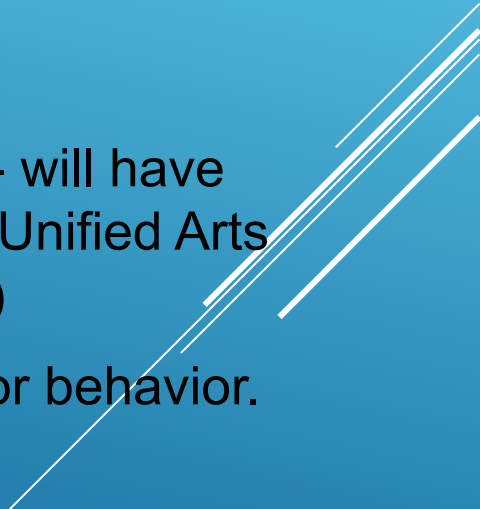
Genius Hour Time
More Choice & Independence
Real World Projects



How is the RIA different from a traditional team?

- You will collaborate with the 8th grade RHAM inquiry students (Half-team 7th-grade; half-team 8th-grade)
 - More of an emphasis on Project-Based Learning, with students having a greater freedom to choose topics and ways to show learning.
 - Students need to motivate themselves, work independently, and overcome roadblocks with minimum frustration.
 - Interdisciplinary focus and connections across classes.
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How is the RIA similar to a traditional team?

- Have to show the same competencies and skills as all RHAM students -- math competencies, reading ability, writing skills, and coverage of content knowledge.
 - There will still be things like tests, homework etc.
 - We will still follow a standard school day (7:17-2:10) -- will have UA's, lunch, and advisory like other teams. (UA's are Unified Arts classes like PE, Wellness, Art and Computer Science)
 - We still follow school rules and have high standards for behavior.
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- A decorative graphic consisting of several parallel white lines of varying lengths, slanted diagonally from the bottom right towards the top right, located in the lower right quadrant of the slide.

What is expected of an RIA student?

Hard-working -- makes schoolwork a priority.

- Motivated -- Is willing to challenge themselves and work through problems.
- Organized -- Is able to manage time and responsibilities. With great projects comes great responsibility.
- Community-minded -- Is kind to others and likes to get involved in helping their community.



What is expected of an RIA student?

- Have an inquisitive nature -- Has a **desire to learn** about things, how they work, and why things are the way they are.
- Open-minded -- Is able to work with and support other students with a **diversity of views, opinions and interests.**
- Flexible -- Is open to new ways of learning, **varying schedules**, and **having their ideas challenged.**



What Is Genius Hour, and How Does It Work?

It is a class period during the school day where students explore, develop, and share their own interests.

Students start by developing a “deep-thinking, non-Googleable” question or problem related to a topic, pitch their idea, and eventually present their learning.

Students will create an end product to share their new learning with their classmates.

Grades are based on time management, research, and presentation skills.



Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: How many students are accepted into the RHAM Inquiry Academy?

A: There are only 35 spots available.

Q: What is the application deadline?

A: All applications are due to RHAM Middle School no later than February 17, 2023.

Q: Is this an “honors” or advanced program?

A: No, as with other teams, honors level classes are offered as well as classes for all levels of learning.

Q: What World Languages are offered in the program?

A: Spanish and French (no Latin)

Q: *Can my special education student with an IEP be in this program?*

A: Yes, but not all typical supports will be available. Co-taught classes are not available, but the nature of the program will encourage learning in a way that best suits an individual’s learning style.

FAQ cont.

Q: What is the commitment to the program? Can a student go back to the traditional program?

A: Our expectation will be that students stay the year, but that stated, this is a personalized program, so the students needs will be addressed even if that means having them go back to a more traditional setting.

Q: How many total students will be on the team?

A: This is a combined 7th & 8th grade team with approximately 35 students in each grade.

Q: Can an eighth grade student enter the program?

A: Yes, if there is a spot open then we would welcome that student.



FAQ (cont.)

Q: How long should the essay be?

A: This essay is not graded or used in any way except to give staff an idea of your child's interests.


Q: Is the curriculum different from the traditional setting?

A: No, the curriculum is not any different. Students in the Inquiry Academy will be required to meet the same competencies and standards that their 7th & 8th grade peers have to meet in the traditional program of study.

Q: Is there a High School inquiry program?

A: Yes, depending on enrollment the High School is runs Inquiry Science, Social Studies and English classes in 9th grade and in 10th grade. AP Research course is now being offered, where students can earn AP credit by doing a research project on a topic of their choice.

Inquiry Program Admission

- Application
 - Short Answer Questions
 - Essay
 - Teacher Recommendations
 - Interview (if needed)
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TIMELINE

- January 2023- Student informational meetings
- January 9, 2023 – Parent informational meeting
- **February 17, 2023 – Applications due**
- February/March 2023 - Honors Math Testing
- February/March 2023 - Inquiry Interviews (if needed)
- April 2023 - Notification Letter

<https://rms.rhamschools.org/>

Under Parent Tab- Inquiry Academy

