**Gifted Students**

Eastern offers four gifted and talented seminars as part of regular course offerings. These seminars include research projects that require cross-curricular interaction and engagement and provide services for the whole district. A variety of schoolwide clubs and events have been started through students in the GT seminar courses: (1) Unified for Unifat - charity work, fundraising, and invited international speakers; (2) Hope Holds Strong - a scholarship program for Eastern students who have suffered the loss of a parent or sole guardian; and (3) sponsoring a TED-talk like event for students across the district. In addition to GT seminars, our district offers a Model UN student organization that is open to all students. Students in this organization organize and run a conference for districts across South Jersey. Our district is also committed to providing access to college courses for upperclassmen through our dual-credit classes with neighboring higher education institutions and online providers. Eastern's High School Plus program ensures that high-achieving students have access to challenging courses that the district is not able to offer.  Broadly, our district offers a variety of AP Courses in all content areas (World Languages, Arts, Math, Science, English, and Social studies). We are especially focused on offering AP courses that require no prerequisites as an easy entry point to the AP program.

Eastern also accommodates the needs of gifted students through independent study courses, advanced credit, an ever-growing list of student clubs and activities in areas where students express a passion, specialized schedules for students in AP classes, GT seminar, and the arts, guest speakers, collaboration with community organizations, and projects using Eastern’s Library Media resources and Media Specialist.  Finally, Eastern is continuously evaluating and implementing math programming to increase the number of pathways to high level math courses (Calculus), starting in 8th grade with our sending districts.

* More elaborate, complex, and in-depth study of major ideas, problems, and themes that integrate knowledge within and across systems of thought.
* Development and application of productive thinking skills to enable students to reconceptualize existing knowledge and/or generate new knowledge.
* Explore constantly changing knowledge and information and develop the attitude that knowledge is worth pursuing in an open world.
* Encourage exposure to, selection, and use of appropriate and specialized resources.
* Promote self-initiated and self-directed learning and growth.
* Provide for the development of self-understanding and the understanding of one's relationship to persons, societal institutions, nature, and culture.
* Flexible pacing
* Use of more advanced or complex concepts, abstractions, and materials
* Encourage students to move through content areas at their own pace. If they master a particular unit, they need to be provided with more advanced learning activities, not more of the same activity.
* Questions that require a higher level of response and/or open-ended questions that stimulate inquiry, active exploration, and discovery.
* Encourage students to think about subjects in more abstract and complex ways
* Activity selection based on student interests, that encourage self-directed learning
* Group interaction and simulations
* Guided self-management
* Encourage students to demonstrate what they have learned in a wide variety of forms that reflect both knowledge and the ability to manipulate ideas.
* Engage students in active problem-finding and problem-solving activities and research
* Provide students opportunities for making connections within and across systems of knowledge by focusing on issues, themes, and ideas.