

Mullica Township Middle School

Big History Project Social Studies/American History Enrichment Entrance and Continuation Criteria

Program Description:

The Big History Project enrichment program supplements the NJSLA social studies/American History standards. This program will accelerate coverage of the grade-level Social Studies/American History standards and incorporate the Big History Project course of study available through the OER(Open Educational Resources) Project. To facilitate coverage of both curricula students will have one additional class period of this class each cycle. This class period will replace one of the student's CAP periods.

Initial Fifth-Grade Entrance Criteria:

Entrance to the Big History Project Enrichment program will be based on multiple data sources. The District will endeavor to utilize sufficient data points to ensure that the data is an adequate representation of each student's academic ability and performance. Students with the highest average of all available data points will be selected for the program. The number of students entering the program will be determined based on the average class size for their grade cohort.

Continued Participation:

Students who demonstrate success in the Big History Project Enrichment program and their other core content classes will remain enrolled in the program. Success is defined as achieving a grade of B or better in the program and maintaining a B(3.0) or better grade point average. Parents may request that their child be removed from or decline participation in the program (this may impact the student's other class enrollments).

Entrance to the Program grades 6-8:

To be considered for entrance into the Big History Project Enrichment Program students in grades 6-8 students must meet the following criteria.

- Be new to the district with a prior enrichment level class enrollment during the same or previous school year. Evidenced by transfer school records.
and
- Seats must be available in the class. The class size is capped at 24 students.

OR

- Be recommended to the program by their teacher(s) for the following school year.
and
- Demonstrate academic excellence using multiple data points. (Scores must place them in the same range as students already enrolled in the class.)
and
- Seats must be available in the class. The class size is capped at 24 students.

Data Used for Entrance:

Multiple data points will be utilized for entrance to the Big History Project Enrichment program. All data points will be adjusted to a 4-point scale using cut scores identified by the assessment company, or by the district when cut-off points are not available. Examples of data points and cut scores are outlined below.

Student Prior Year Grade Point Average:

A = 4 Points, B = 3 points, C = 2 points, D = 1 Point, F = 0 points

NJSLA Math and English Language Arts:

Exceeded Expectations= 4 Points, Met Expectations = 3 points, Approached Expectations = 2 points, Partially Met Expectations = 1 Point, Did Not Yet Meet Expectations = 0.5 points

ExactPath Diagnostic Assessment- Math Reading, and English Language Arts:

Exceeded Expectations= 4 Points, Met Expectations = 3 points, Approached Expectations = 2 points, Partially Met Expectations = 1 Point, Did Not Yet Meet Expectations = 0.5 points

District Curriculum End-of-Year Math Test:

Advanced = 4 points, Proficient = 3 points, Basic = 2 points, Below Basic = 1 point, Far Below Basic = 0.5 points

Fountas and Pinnell Reading Level:

U and above= 4 points, S and T = 3 points, Q and R = 2 points, P and below = 1 point

OLSAT School Ability Index(administered in 4th Grade:

116 and Up = 4 points, 84-116 = 3 Points, 68-84 = 2 Points, 67 and Below = 1 Point

Teacher Recommendation Scores:

Teachers will rate students' General Ability, Specific Ability, Task Commitment, and Creativity in both Math and English Language Arts. Students' scores will be averaged and scaled to reflect a 4-point scale in both subjects.

*Participation in The Big History Project does not impact eligibility or acceptance to the National Junior Honor Society.

*Participation in STEM enrichment in lower grades does not impact acceptance into this program.