



LEARNING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
1100 C Winslow Avenue, Coquitlam, British Columbia V3J 2G3 • Phone 604-937-6386 • Fax 604-936-5451

Secondary Gifted Program: TALONS (The Academy of Learning for Outstanding, Notable Students)

So You're Thinking About Grade 9 ... and Beyond

Wednesday, January 7th, 2015, 6:45 – 8:30 p.m.

Gleneagle Secondary Multipurpose Room
(meet at west gym entrance)

Dear Parent & Grade 8 Student:

The Coquitlam School District offers a four-year gifted program for grade nines to twelves who live in the district. The grade nine TALONS learners take all four core subjects, math, science English and Socials in their grade nine year. During the subsequent three years options will vary. This program is located at Gleneagle Secondary School. The coordinator at the school is Ms. Quirien Mulder ten Kate and the liaison with the district is Ms. Louise Malfesi, Gifted Education Coordinator.

We are pleased to invite you to a special evening meeting for Grade 8 students and their parents to introduce you to our District program for gifted Grade 9 to 12 students at Gleneagle Secondary in the 2015/2016 year. Students will soon be making decisions about their program for Grade 9 next year. We encourage you to attend this session so you can make an informed decision. Please visit the District TALONS webpage: <http://www.sd43.bc.ca/Programs/gifted/Pages/TALONS.aspx> to register for this meeting. Please indicate if you are coming earlier for a visit to the TALONS classroom (6:15 -6:45).

Program description:

TALONS (*The Academy of Learning for Outstanding, Notable Students*) is designed for learners of high ability. It addresses the unique needs of gifted learners by accelerating, compacting, enriching and telescoping curriculum. Options for acceleration into higher level courses are also offered. TALONS program follows the *Autonomous Learner Model*:

- responsibility for learning is placed on the learner with the appropriate amount of support by the teacher;
- a comprehensive program focuses on emotional, social and cognitive development;
- self-esteem and social skills are enhanced.

Talons learners will complete an eminent person study in Socials 9/English 9 and short-term independent investigations, inquiry-based projects and seminars in Math 9/Science 9. Talons learners interested in Leadership 10, an additional course available in grade 9, have to apply for this course separately and must be available for additional time commitments during lunch time, after school, evenings and weekends. Talons Leadership courses include exploring leadership models and skills, organizing one day field trips, certification

courses, retreats, cultural events and an adventure trip, completing an in-depth study, implementing a community service learning project, and volunteering for other Talons learners projects.

Selection criteria include:

- previous formal identification as a gifted learner while at middle or elementary school e.g., student has Gifted Education IEP
- willingness and have an ability to accelerate, compact, enrich and telescope the mandated curriculum
- demonstrate very good work habits and effort
- desire to become an interdependent, self-directed learner who takes responsibility for own learning
- thinks outside the box, flexible learner, takes risks in learning
- interest in exploring course content beyond the ministry learning outcomes
- needs to be able to work and communicate effectively in groups and committees
- ability to get transportation to and from Gleneagle Secondary School

For optional Leadership 10:

- ability to participate in activities outside of school hours
- openness to participate in cultural activities and volunteer community service projects
- interest in developing leadership skills and planning activities for the group and the community-at-large
- able to pay for the additional costs associated with its activities.

Admission Procedure:

1. The Online Application must be completed by **January 16, 2015 by 4 pm**. Directions to apply and the application forms are located on the [District TALONS webpage](#). Applicants are responsible for asking two teachers to be their referees before **January 9th, 2015**. The Teacher Reference Forms will be linked to your online application form. Please inform these two teachers that their forms should be completed electronically by **January 23th, 2015 by 4pm**.
2. Selection will be based upon the criteria outlined on the previous page. An interview may be requested. Notification via e-mail will occur **after 3 pm on February 13, 2015** to:
 - i. accept the applicant into the district program; or
 - ii. place the applicant on a wait list pending available seats in the program.
3. Upon acceptance into the TALONS program, you will be asked to attend a mandatory course selection evening. Further details will be provided later.
4. Participation in this program will be re-evaluated at the end of every grade to determine if the learner is still a good fit for the program and vice versa.

If you have any questions, please e-mail Quirien Mulder ten Kate qmtk@sd43.bc.ca

Sincerely,

Quirien Mulder ten Kate
Bryan Jackson
Andy Albright
TALONS Teachers

Louise Malfesi
District Coordinator Gifted Education