

Enrichment at St. Anthony Park Elementary School 2008-2009

St. Anthony Park (SAP) believes that every student deserves to be challenged at his/her ability level. To accomplish this goal, SAP classroom and specialist teachers offer challenging learning opportunities to all students. We call these opportunities “enrichment”.

SAP offers enrichment in a variety of ways. In general, enrichment in core academic subjects (reading, writing and math) happens frequently and is a part of the everyday school routine, whereas enrichment in other subjects happens less frequently but has more options for kids to develop their artistic, scientific, athletic, and leadership talents. Some enrichment classes/activities are open only to qualified students (such as a challenge math group for gifted math students), while others involve all students (such as the Artist-in-Residence program). After-school enrichment activities (such chess and Destination Imagination) are voluntary.

Enrichment in Core Academic Subjects (K-6 Reading, Writing and Math)

To provide challenge in core academic subjects, St. Anthony Park teachers use:

- Pre-assessment and interest inventories to create flexible groups
- Small groups with varied instruction, activities and assignments to reach different ability levels (special emphasis on use of higher order thinking skills with advanced learners).
- Challenge packets, learning centers and independent projects (including use of technology) to challenge advanced, motivated learners

Enrichment in Other Subjects (K-6 Social Studies, Science, Art, Technology, Music and Physical Education)

To provide enrichment in other subjects, St. Anthony Park teachers use:

- Weekly art classes with art specialist
- Artist-in-Residence program (visiting artists work with students at each grade level for 1-2 weeks)
- Celebration of Talent (annual celebration of visual arts)
- Talent Show (annual celebration of performing arts)

- Art Adventure Program (volunteers are trained at Minneapolis Institute of Arts; volunteers then teach students about selected pieces; finally, students go see actual pieces at MIA)
- “St. Anthony Park Reads Together” (school-wide literature appreciation program; sometimes involves a visit by an author)
- Literary Journal (students submit their best stories, poems and essays for publication)
- Weekly computer classes with computer specialist
- Concerts by our school bands, orchestra, grade-level choirs, and by visiting musicians
- Running Club (springtime, after-school running program)
- Track and Field Day (annual two-day friendly competition)
- Cross grade-level mentoring (students from different grades teach and learn from each other)
- Community service projects (e.g. fundraisers for “Ethiopia Reads” and for Hurricane Katrina victims, food collection for a local food shelf, choir visits to a local senior citizens’ home, etc.)
- Student Council
- Other field trips (see below)

Important Note: The St. Paul Public Schools (SPPS) tests all Kindergarten and 2nd grade students for “giftedness”. If your child has been identified for gifted and talented services by SPPS, his/her homeroom teacher can answer specific questions you may have about how he/she is being challenged at school. If your child is not in Kindergarten or 2nd grade and you would like him/her to take this test (named the NNAT), talk to your child’s teacher; the test is typically given in early January.

Additional Enrichment by Grade Level

Kindergarten

100 Day Celebration
Catalyst Tools for Thinking
Children's Museum field trip
Como Park Planetarium field trip
Junior Achievement Program
Make a Memory Day
Officer Friendly visit

1st Grade

Children's Museum field trip
Como Park Planetarium field trip
Family Science Night
Minnesota Zoo field trip
Officer Friendly visit

2nd Grade

Children's Museum field trip
Como Park Planetarium field trip
Family-school reading celebration
Family Science Night
Festival of Lights Pageant
Midwest Foundation Nutrition Program
Officer Friendly
Parent-facilitated book groups
St. Paul Saints field trip
University of Minnesota agriculture field trip

3rd Grade

Children's Theatre (or museum) field trip
Como Park Planetarium field trip
Destination Imagination (creative problem solving competition)
Family Science Night
Junior Achievement Program

Minnesota Zoo field trip
Officer Friendly visit
Science Project and Fair
Valley Branch Nature Center field trip
Wordmasters analogies competition

4th Grade

Destination Imagination (creative problem solving competition)
East Metro Integration District partnership (field trips with 4th grade class from suburban school)
Fort Snelling tour
Friendly chess tournament
Grade-level musical
Junior Achievement
Junior Great Books
Orchestra and Band
Science Project and Fair
State Capitol and History Center tours
Theatre performances (attend)
Valley Branch Nature Center field trip
Wordmasters analogies competition

5th Grade

Camp St. Croix Environmental Learning Center (3 days)
Como Park Planetarium field trips
Destination Imagination (creative problem solving competition)
Friendly chess tournament
Gibbs Farm field trip
Major research projects (2)
Orchestra and Band
Physics Fair at University of Minnesota
President's Physical Fitness Challenge
School Store
Science Project and Fair
Wordmasters analogy competition
Young Authors' Conference

6th Grade

Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center (5 days)
Ancient culture research project
Class play
Como Park Planetarium field trip
Destination Imagination (creative problem solving competition)
Friendly chess tournament
Orchestra and Band
Student patrols (before and after school)
President's Physical Fitness Challenge
Science Project and Fair
Wordmasters analogy competition
Young Authors' Conference