



PRISM stands for **P**erformance **R**evealing **I**ndividual **S**tudent **M**agic. The name reveals the philosophy as well as the intent of the programming offered for interested students at both middle schools. **It is programming by which *all* students have the opportunities to showcase their gifts and talents.** PRISM supports students' intrinsic motivation to go beyond the classroom, as they follow their interests and capitalize on their abilities. Regardless of what students choose to pursue, all PRISM undertakings incorporate research, problem solving, and communication skills.

In Grade 6, **all students** are introduced to the PRISM philosophy and the opportunities PRISM offers during the first five weeks of school. **All students**, regardless of grade, are welcome to attend PRISM classes, offered during team extension periods, throughout September and early October. Students are encouraged to explore what PRISM offers so they can make an informed decision about participation in PRISM.

Programming is offered with the intent of having a range of appeal for intellectual interests and passions, while maintaining a focus on our District Strategic Goals. Through PRISM time, students connect with like-minded peers, facilitating social-emotional growth. PRISM provides another opportunity for learning outside the regular classroom as students apply research, problem solving, and communication skills. Our focus is on real-world problem solving where an authentic audience evaluates student growth and performance.

Here are some of the opportunities for students to participate in PRISM. Descriptions of each track can be found on the back of this page.

FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING	RESEARCH	STEM
Global Issues Problem Solving (team)	Passion Projects (individual or group)	Maker Ambassadors
Community Problem Solving (team)	National History Day (7th & 8th grade only)	
Scenario Writing (individual)		

FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING	
Global Issues Problem Solving	Student teams participate in online competitions against other school teams across New Jersey, with the top teams for each school receiving an invitation to compete at the NJ State Bowl at Kean University in March. The top New Jersey team at the State Bowl advances to the International Competition.

Community Problem Solving	Identifies and solves a local and authentic problem of interest and presents at State and International competitions with GIPS.
Scenario Writing	Writers produce a short story individually on any topic related to the themes of FPSP in the current year.

RESEARCH

National History Day (NHD)	<p>Students research a topic of their choice that fits with the theme “Communication ” as long as that topic has some "history" to consider.</p> <p>Students can compete in groups or as individuals in the areas of exhibit, performance, documentary, or website. Individuals may also write a paper.</p> <p>Students compete at the Regional Competition held in March; those who qualify are invited to compete at the New Jersey History Day competition the first Saturday in May. Students who place 1st or 2nd in their category are invited to compete at the National History Day competition June at the University of Maryland (note that this overlaps with our 8th grade Salute and WW-P high school graduation).</p>
Passion Projects	This research program allows students to pursue research in ANY topic of their choice. It culminates in May with a stand-up presentation at an exposition and judged by an authentic audience.

STEM

Maker Ambassadors	<p>The program allows students to become ambassadors of the maker mindset and students host workshops not only for other students, but for teachers as well. We also strive to solve local scientific problems by applying design thinking and engineering to environmental issues. As citizen scientists, the students work with mentors to design an action research project. From time to time, students also work with elementary student protégés to complete creative engineering tasks through the development of different designs and inventions.</p> <p>This program allows students to unleash their inner creativity, and use STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) to develop and build designs and inventions to help the world around them.</p>
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Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us via email (listed below). We look forward to meeting and working with your child(ren).

Yours in education,

Rebecca & Justin

Dr. Rebecca McLelland-Crawley
 Community Middle School
rebecca.mclelland-crawley@wwprsd.org

Justin Dolcimascolo
 Grover Middle School
justin.dolcimascolo@wwprsd.org