

## RTMS GIFTED MISSION STATEMENT

At RTMS our mission is to foster critical thinking, leadership, & academic skills that are necessary for success in a global society. Fulfilling this mission for our students requires that we capitalize on the students' inherent & developed talents & abilities. It is the desire of our school to provide gifted students with the resources & experiences to capitalize on their talents & provide the potential for self-fulfillment, creativity, & responsible production in our society. While the gifted program aligns with the VA SOL's, it is the intent of the program to exceed the minimum standards of learning & provide numerous opportunities for advancement!

### What's Happening in Focus?

To stay abreast of current information related to what is happening for Focus students at RTMS **it is essential** for parents & students to visit the RTMS webpage. When you visit the site (<http://tms.staffordschools.net>), select "Academics" from the top toolbar. Scroll down & click on "Specialists" - scroll to "Scott Trotta", then select the website icon. This will open Mr. Trotta's homepage with information that pertains to 6th -8th grade Focus students & their parents. Activities & events as are posted, as well. Please contact Mr. Trotta at:

[trottajs@staffordschools.net](mailto:trottajs@staffordschools.net)

### Who to Contact?

If you have any questions about the Focus program at RTMS, please contact the following staff members:

#### *Points of Contact for Focus at RTMS*

RTMS Focus Resource Teacher:  
Scott Trotta (540) 658-6420.

RTMS Administrative Contact:  
Mike Archambault (540) 658-6420.

SCPS Facilitator of K-12 Gifted Education:  
Stephenie Fellingner (540) 658-6689.



*At RTMS we Focus'ed on the Gifted Student!*

**RTMS is  
Focus'ed on  
the Gifted  
Student!**



*Things to Know  
About the Focus  
Program for RTMS's  
Gifted Students*

*"Education is the most  
powerful weapon which  
you can use to change  
the world."*

-Nelson Mandela

**Our "Focus" is  
Excellence**

## ***FOCUS FAQ's***

### **At RTMS the FOCUS is on the needs of the students?**

*- Welcome to the Focus Program at Rodney Thompson Middle School! The administration, staff, & Focus teacher are very excited to work with you & your student!*

### **How does the program meet the needs of the students?**

*- While we are not teamed, our students will be clustered with similar-ability students who are also gifted, while also working with students of other interests & abilities.*

### **How are students serviced & what types of services are provided?**

*- Our Focus Program involves a variety of unique experiences for students both inside of the regular classroom & out. The classroom teachers & Focus teacher work collaboratively to differentiate learning activities in a way that motivates & challenges your child. Students may also participate in asynchronous learning through the Focus Canvas site that will be designed to help our students grow metacognitively while enhancing their growth mindset & leadership abilities. Additionally, as much as possible, we will seek programs offered in the virtual environment for students to complete / take part in extracurricular opportunities designed to expand their thinking & creativity. Finally, students will be asked to submit a project for consideration at the Middle School Focus Showcase to be held in the spring.*

## **Focus Services for 2021-2022**

The Focus teacher provides services at each grade-level. The Focus teacher will...

- ♦ Work with each student's PLC to provide extensions & enrichment for classroom activities that are designed to meet higher level thought operations & depth.
- ♦ Monitor progress & communicate with families regarding student's progress in the classroom (when necessary) & provide emotional support for our student when in need of counsel.
- ♦ Create and / or provide information about meaningful opportunities for enrichment.
- ♦ Provide office hours for and / or counsel Focus students & parents (as needed / requested).
- ♦ Provide professional development on compacting / extending the curriculum / multiple menu options / identification (etc...) for staff.
- ♦ Identify & evaluate newly referred candidates for the Focus program.
- ♦ Advocate for the advancement of gifted education & services for Focus students.

*\* Finally, I will continue to keep you informed of any opportunities that arise for our students to challenge themselves & / or enrich their learning potential.*

Rodney Thompson Middle School  
75 Walpole Street  
Stafford, VA 22554  
540-658-6420



## **Are there other opportunities?**

Additional opportunities will vary based upon staff sponsorship & the ability to offer virtual options, but may include the following:

- \* *National History Day*
- \* *Debate Team*
- \* *Knowledge Masters Open*
- \* *Science Fair*
- \* *Mock Trials*
- \* *Electronic Portfolios*
- \* *World Cultures Celebration*
- \* *National Geographic Bee*
- \* *Spelling Bee Competition*
- \* *Robotics*
- \* *Independent Study*
- \* *Middle School Focus Showcase*
- \* *Model UN*
- \* *SeaPerch Robotics*

*If you have questions about identification please see the "Focus Identification Process" brochure on our website!*