

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

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

Please watch the PowerPoint [here](#). Password: TALONS2021
We suggest you open it in your Desktop App. It will work better than watching it online.

Dear Parent & Grade 8 Student:

The Coquitlam School District offers a two-year Gifted program for grade nines and tens who live in the district, plus some individual grade 11 and 12 optional courses. The grade nine TALONS learners take all four core subjects: Math, Science, English and Social Studies plus Leadership 10 and Outdoor Learning 11 in their grade nine year. The grade ten TALONS learners take all four core subjects plus Career Life Education 10, Leadership 11, and Outdoor Recreation 12 in their grade ten year. During grades eleven and twelve the options will vary, depending on student interest. 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 Mrs. Robyn Chambers, Gifted Education Coordinator.

Students will soon be making decisions about their program for Grade 9 next year. This year we are unable to have an informational night due to Covid-19 restrictions. Instead, we encourage you to look through the information on the Talons pages [here](#), [here](#) and especially the PowerPoint [here](#) (Password: TALONS2021). We suggest you open it in your Desktop App. It will work better than watching it online. We encourage you to learn as much as possible so you can make an informed decision.

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. The 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.

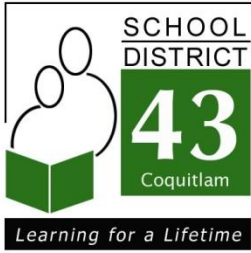
Talons learners will complete an eminent person study in Socials 9/English 9 and short-term independent investigations, inquiry-based projects and seminars in Math 9/Science 9. Talons Leadership courses include exploring leadership models and skills, organizing one day field trips, certification courses,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

Note about COVID-19:

At this point we are unsure what restrictions we may face next school year. Some aspects of the TALONS program may have to be adjusted accordingly. Please be aware that unlike middle school there is currently no Gradual Transitions program at secondary schools. Students who are not able to attend school are not able to have a class spot held for them.

Selection criteria include:

- previous formal identification as a Gifted learner while at middle or elementary school e.g., student has Gifted Education IEP, is attending an SD43 school and lives within the boundaries of SD43.
- 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 standards
- needs to be able to work and communicate effectively in groups and committees
- demonstrates an understanding of the unique learning environment
- ability to get transportation to and from Gleneagle Secondary School
- 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:

The Online Application must be completed by **January 13th, 2021 by 1 p.m.** Directions to apply and the application forms are located on the [District TALONS webpage](#). Further, applicants are responsible for asking **two academic middle school teachers, one of which is a grade 8 teacher, to be your referee** as soon as possible once you have decided to apply so they will have time to complete your reference. The Teacher Reference Forms will be linked to the TALONS webpage as well. Please inform these two teachers that their forms should be completed electronically by **January 18th, 2021 by 12 p.m.** If you teachers are not current SD43 employees, they will not be able to use the link. If this is the case, please email Robyn Chambers at rochambers@sd43.bc.ca with the teacher's name and email address as soon as possible. If you are on the Gradual Transition program and have not attended at all this school year, we may need to look at different reference for Grade 8. Please also email me at rochambers@sd43.bc.ca to discuss who you should ask.

1. Selection will be based upon the criteria outlined on the previous page. An interview may be requested. Notification via e-mail will occur **starting on the evening of January 29th, 2021 and continue until February 3rd** to accept the applicant into the district program. After February 3rd all other applicants will be placed on a wait list pending available seats in the program.
Note: If waitlisted students are offered placement and subsequently accept, they are responsible for informing other programs of choice, like Honours or IB, of their decision.
2. Upon acceptance into the TALONS program, you will receive an email with instructions on how to select your courses. Further details will be provided later.
3. 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 gmtk@sd43.bc.ca .

Sincerely,

Quirien Mulder ten Kate
TALONS Program Coordinator

Robyn Chambers
District Coordinator Gifted Education