

MIDDLE SCHOOL GRC CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The Gifted Education Department's goal is for students to **take courageous risks** and **develop resilience** to **explore perspectives** and **analyze bias** in order to **discern information** and ultimately cultivate a sense of **empowerment** to lead them to make confident decisions and act on credible information.

6th GRADE Fall Conceptual Lens: Risk Taking	Spring Conceptual Lens: Resilience
<p><u>Essential Understanding:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Risk taking requires confidence and courage and may help an individual to stand out as a leader. 2. Risk taking may provide opportunity to open up to new talents, interests, abilities and dreams. 3. Risk taking may involve creativity, problem solving, learning new or difficult information, and accomplishing new goals. 4. Risk-taking may help an individual overcome a fear of failure and promote internal growth. 5. Positive risk taking is calculated and requires an individual to compare the pros and cons of a decision. 	<p><u>Essential Understandings:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resilience may develop from both positive and negative outcomes of risk taking. 2. Resilience gives an individual the strength to tackle problems head on, overcome adversity, and move on with his/her life. 3. Resilience requires an individual to utilize his/her skills and strengths to cope and recover from problems and challenges. 4. Resilience strengthens by focusing on one's talents and successes in the midst of struggles or failure. 5. Resilience requires a person to seek and pursue alternate possibilities/solutions.
7th GRADE Fall Conceptual Lens: Perspective	Spring Conceptual Lens: Bias
<p><u>Essential Understanding:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The willingness to listen and understand different perspectives requires an individual to take a risk and tolerate ambiguity. 2. Perspectives influence a person's decision-making, responses to situations, and interactions with others. 3. Perspectives may be strengthened, changed, or broadened with new information or with new relationships. 4. Differing perspectives can lead to conflict or conflict resolution. 5. A single event can have multiple, conflicting perspectives. 	<p><u>Essential Understandings:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bias can be overcome through experiences with diverse perspectives and sources. 2. An individual's response to the causes and consequences of bias reveal his/her morals, ethics, and values. 3. Knowing and identifying multiple forms of bias may lead to less confusion and better informed decisions. 4. Word choice and tone may implicitly communicate bias. 5. Locating and verifying reliable online sources can reduce bias.
8th GRADE Fall Conceptual Lens: Discernment	Spring Conceptual Lens: Empowerment
<p><u>Essential Understanding:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discernment is necessary in order to identify bias. 2. Discernment strengthens by analyzing an author's tone, word choice, point of view, and purpose. 3. Discernment is used to judge the credibility of information. 4. Discernment requires one to delay judgment and consider information from different perspectives. 5. Discernment of credible information leads to informed decisions and appropriate actions. 	<p><u>Essential Understandings:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discernment leads to empowerment. 2. Empowerment is preceded and strengthened by resilience and risk-taking. 3. Empowerment allows an individual to take initiative and make decisions to solve problems and transform those decisions into desired actions and outcomes. 4. Empowerment begins with confident leaders who elevate others. 5. Empowerment may change lives on a personal, communal and/or global level.