

Seminar Descriptions for Forest Ridge Elementary

Grade 5

1.Green Team

This seminar will be used to explore environmental issues and strive to increase environmental awareness within our school community. The students in this seminar will lead our Green School initiatives.

2. Rube Goldberg Engineering Challenge

Wednesday after school (3:45 –4

This is the seminar for you if you love to design and build! Students will participate in an engineering challenge that will be composed of the following four parts:

- Design and Construction of a Project
- Written Report
- Oral Presentation
- Performance Demonstration

Due to space constraints, this seminar will be limited to 15 students. In addition to writing about why you want to participate in this seminar, you will need to research the 6 simple machines and write a report about each machine, what its purpose is, and give examples of each. If interested, please make sure your application is complete and turned in by the due date.

3. Unheard Perspectives

Friday Before School

This challenging performance-based program will have students researching and delving through primary sources like letters, songs, interviews, pictures and maps as well as reading newspaper articles, biographies, and much more as they learn about our history. Part of each project focuses on contextualizing and putting events in reference to others through the student creation of a timeline of relevant events. Each week, students will hone their research skills as they learn more about black innovators in American history. This class will be limited to 20 students.

4. Science/STEM Fair

In this instructional seminar, students learn how to conduct fair test experiments on a topic of their choice. Class sessions walk students through the process of conducting an experiment and will model an experiment for them. Class time is for instruction only and all assignments are completed at home with adult assistance and supervision as necessary. Students learn how to conduct an experiment fairly, record their observations, report their findings and present what they've learned. Students will share their projects upon completion in February. Homework is an extensive part of this seminar. Students who have participated in the fair in prior years may choose to request a packet and complete all work at home.

5. Coding

If you love technology and want to learn more about how it works, this might be the seminar for you. Through various tasks you will learn the basics about computer programming. Class size will be limited.

6. Math Olympiads

Students who enjoy the challenge of multi-step math problem solving might consider this instructional seminar. These problems are designed to be extremely challenging and require students to employ many advanced problem solving strategies. There are 5 monthly contests to test the students' application of these strategies.

Class size is limited.

7. Mystery Writers

How good of a detective are you? Here is your chance to develop detective skills and then write your own mystery story. Students will use clues to solve puzzles, will analyze short mystery stories, and then write their own mystery. If you enjoy writing and problem solving, this would be a great seminar for you.