

Seek Challenge, Experience Success

# THOMAS HANEY

THSS - Gifted Programming



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## A Program Overview

There is a wide variety of programming for gifted or inquiry based learners at THSS.

The Guided Inquiry courses is a part to our overall approach to the gifted learner.

The Guided Inquiry course has been developed to provide teacher and peer support, encouragement, and enrichment opportunities for talented students who wish to pursue inquiry into topics of interest to them. Such inquiry may be undertaken as an extension of regular academic course content or may represent an interdisciplinary approach to make connections across subject areas. A major component of the course consists in opportunities for students to work together with peers to develop the skills of inquiry, such as problem development, critical analysis, project management, and presentation to authentic audiences. Students will participate in team activities and discussions as well as completing independent projects designed in consultation with the course instructor.

The course will be run as an online course with a face-to-face component. There will be one mandatory class meeting per month, most likely on a Thursday afternoon from 3:30-5:00 (specific dates and locations TBA); students will complete the remainder of the course requirements online. This is a Board Authorized, 4-credit course which counts toward graduation and can be taken up to three times if the student wishes (grade 10, 11, and 12 level). Students in grades 8 and 9 are welcome to enroll in Guided Inquiry 10 then can progress to Guided Inquiry 11 and / or 12.

## Related clubs and events:

### *Curiosity club:*

The "Curiosity Club" meets every Tuesday at lunch and members take turns sharing their unique passions and some choose to come just to listen to the inevitably lively discussions.

The Curiosity Club, at Thomas Haney, is our club of naturally curious and supportive students who all want to share in exploring and developing interests in any number of extra-curricular areas. Members share what they have stumbled across, during the week. Others share existing passions and hobbies. Often, other members in the group have either a shared interest or often have some deeper understanding they can share. The conversations are lively and varied.

The Curiosity Club also goes beyond our lunch hour presentations and conversations. We host events that are open to the entire school such as pizza and games nights, art film viewings, classical music listenings, "Maker Faire"s and "Escape the Room" events.

This year, Thomas Haney Parent's Advisory Council supported the Curiosity Club, in starting up a recording station. This recording equipment has already allowed Curiosity Club

members to record for paid voice-overs in commercials and films. Other students have explored the world of recording through their music and singing.

**Self Directed Learning:** THSS is a unique school experience. We are a community based on the principals of self directed learning. We look for opportunities in or basic program to allow students to demonstrated their learning in a wide variety of manners. We expected that each student is allowed to display and demonstrate their learning in a manner that supports their uniqueness and "giftedness". While this is not apart of the gifted programming; it is an extension of t a self directed school.

**Maker Fair:** Maker Faire is a gathering of fascinating, curious people who enjoy learning and who love sharing what they can do. It's a venue for makers to show examples of their work and interact with others about it. Many makers say they have no other place to share what they do. It's typically out of the spotlight of traditional art or science or craft events. Maker Faire makes visible these projects and ideas that we don't encounter every day.

# F.A.Q. Frequently Asked Questions about Gifted Education:

**How does the BAA - Guided Inquiry Framework connect to other courses ?**

A BAA course is a full credit 10, 11 or 12 course developed.

**Is Guided Inquiry an easy credit ?** The course must be rigorous, well thought-out and developed through a consultative process

involving the student and the teacher.

**How is the course evaluated ?** Each project has the opportunity for teacher and student to develop criteria for assessment; so every project can be assessed in a specific and different manner.

**How are the credits allocated ?** You can earn 4 credits per course . Credits are awarded in groups of 4 ie. 4 credits = 1 full course.

**Can I do only one GI course?** yes there is no necessity to progress from gr 10 to 12 . A student can take only one of the guided inquiry courses or can take all three.

**Is the curiosity club or maker faire a necessity to GI ?** Nope, these are separate yet connected parts of the THSS school experience.

**Does the course credit form Guided Inquiry Transfer ?** Yes like any other completed course the credits transfers, shows on a report card and is a credit recognized by the

Ministry of Education. BAA course typically are not factored into admission requirements at college or university, however, project work finds a great place in a personal portfolio. Increasingly post secondary institutions are looking to supplemental portfolio admissions.



**Blended Learning:**

Thomas Haney’s flexible model allows us the perfect environment for blended learning.

Blended learning is education that combines the richness of the personal face-to-face school experience with digital and on-line learning opportunities. Our students can access learning resources and lessons 24/7. The option to learn about quadratic equations from the privacy of your own home at your own time is now a real option. The face-to-face lessons and interactions are not replaced, but enhanced by such opportunities.

Students can work ahead, or spend more time on a concept, or access more individualized help as necessary. Technology also provides our students opportunities to produce meaningful work for authentic audiences. Write a Blog.! Make a Prezi.! Post a video to YouTube. Design a campaign.

Thomas Haney has gained an international reputation for its innovations in this regard. We believe that schools must be more flexible and personal to meet the needs of our students and to prepare them for life in the 21st Century.

*Where to go from here:*

In the spring the course selection begins. We advertise and collect student interested in beginning the GI journey.

Do not be afraid to think about potential plan, there is a wide variety of options. Do not be afraid to ask.

GI course work can link to many other courses or outside of school experiences. Do not be afraid to imagine.

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