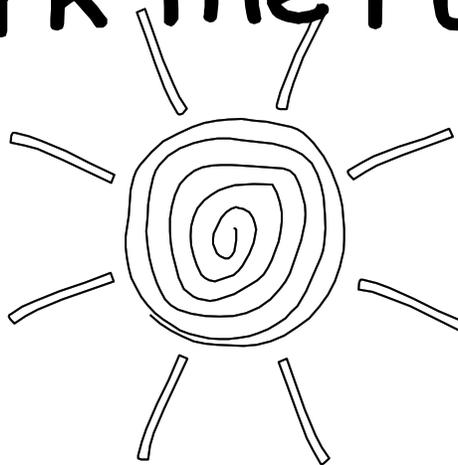


Program Challenge Handbook

Spark the Future



Challenge the Mind

2020-2021 School Year

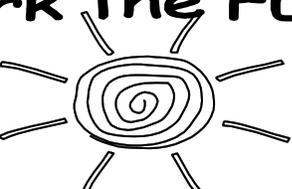
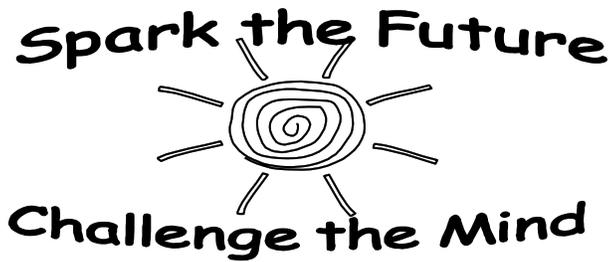
Spark the Future

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We would like to welcome you to
Program Challenge!

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Remind 101 Text (404)620-2083 the following code:				
1 st Grade	2 nd Grade	3 rd Grade	4 th Grade	5 th grade
@96f37	@717b	@6b3cc	@7f982	@441f1e

Website: <http://www.spalding.k12.ga.us/Departments/Instructional-Services/Gifted-Services/Program-Challenge/index.html>

Facebook:
 GSCS Enrichment Center (Program Challenge)



Georgia Department of Education Gifted Education Services

Georgia educators are committed to the belief that education is a means by which every individual has the opportunity to reach his/her fullest potential. We believe that all students have a right to educational experiences that challenge their individual development whether it is below, at, or beyond the level of their age peers. In accordance with this philosophy, Georgia schools provide educational programs that recognize and make provisions for the special needs of gifted students.

<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Curriculum-and-Instruction/Pages/Gifted-Education.aspx>

SBOE rule 160-4-2-.38

Griffin-Spalding County Schools

Grow, Sustain, Collaborate, Succeed

Program Challenge Gifted Enrichment Center

The goal of the Griffin-Spalding County School System is to provide quality services that efficiently and effectively meet the needs of all students. Begun in 1999, the Program Challenge Gifted Enrichment Center is designed to meet the needs of elementary school students who have been identified for gifted services. The Center, located at 205 Spalding Drive, serves students in grades K-5 one day each week. Students are grouped by grade level with other students from across the county. While at the Program Challenge Center, teachers work with the students on standards-based learning, problem solving and research skills while fostering emotional growth, creativity, leadership and independence. The motto of the gifted program, “Spark the Future, Challenge the Mind,” forms the central basis of all instruction and activities at the Program Challenge Gifted Enrichment Center.



Georgia Definition of the Gifted

A student who demonstrates a high degree of intellectual and/or creative ability, exhibits an exceptionally high degree of motivation, and/or excels in specific academic fields, and who needs special instruction and/or special ancillary services to achieve at levels commensurate with his or her abilities. (For eligibility requirements, please refer to your child's placement information.)

Our Mission Statement:

Our mission is to empower, enrich, motivate, and inspire students to expand their creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving skills to reach their highest potential.

Our Vision Statement:

Our vision is to enable students to be supportive of others, empowered to learn and step out of their comfort zones to persevere through the real world.

Our Purpose and Core Values

The purpose of gifted education is to serve students identified with the State of Georgia's gifted criteria by providing stimulating and challenging opportunities that will foster creativity, leadership and independence.

We believe that:

- Every student has a right to develop to his/her greatest ability.
- All students shall be recognized as diverse individuals rather than a single homogeneous group.
- Students benefit from interaction with other students of similar abilities and talents.
- Access to a differentiated curriculum enables students to broaden their base of interest through advanced research skills and methods, creative thinking, and problem solving.

- A nurturing environment, which supports student social and emotional growth as well as individual needs, must be sustained.
- Effective staff, student, and parent communication must be maintained.
- Student achievement should be evaluated using appropriate and specific criteria and should include teacher, self, and collaborative evaluation.
- Staff professional learning fosters increased knowledge of the needs of gifted students and supports the development of appropriate opportunities for learners of all ages.

Curriculum Statement

The instructional curriculum activities at the Program Challenge Center are based on Georgia Standards of Excellence, SMPs, Science and Engineering practices, using the enrichment model. Each course of study offered emphasizes the state standards, research skills, opportunities in problem solving, plus development of creativity, leadership and independence.

All of these together lead to emotional and intellectual growth. Our curricular program integrates engineering with elementary science topics while making connections with literacy, social studies, and mathematics.

Program Challenge Progress Reports

The performance of each student attending classes at Program Challenge will be evaluated frequently. Reports containing information concerning the students' evaluations will be sent home during the school year. These reports will have a score from 1-4 depending upon the performance of the student.

Indicators:

- 4~ Distinguished Learner
- 3~ Proficient Learner
- 2~ Developing Learner
- 1~ Beginning Learner

PC does not assign homework

Makeup Work Guidelines

Administrative Procedures for Gifted Education

The following is a guideline for students who attend Program Challenge:

Students going to Program Challenge will be exempt from work done in their regular classroom on the day they are in Program Challenge.

Students are not exempted from any tests or projects required by teachers at the regular school.

Continuation Policy

Student performance in the gifted program will be evaluated annually and the conclusion of each grading period by the local school's gifted education program teacher(s). **This evaluation will be based on the student's performance in the gifted program classroom.** Parents will be notified as to whether performance is satisfactory (80% 3s and 4s or B Average) or unsatisfactory.

In the event a student's performance is deemed unsatisfactory in gifted education class (es), parent(s) will be notified and a meeting will be scheduled to develop an intervention plan. The parent(s), principal's designee, and the gifted education teacher(s) in the area or areas in which the student is experiencing difficulty will comprise the intervention team. The student will be included when appropriate. In the event that the parent is unable to attend this meeting, the parent will be sent a written notification of the intervention plan. The intervention plan will be implemented during the probationary period which lasts for one semester.

Upon completion of the intervention/probationary period (one grading period), a second meeting will be scheduled to review the student's progress. At that meeting the intervention team (including the parent(s) and the student) will meet to evaluate the student's performance. The student's academic record will be reviewed to determine if satisfactory performance has been maintained during the semester of probation. The team will determine continuation in or dismissal from the gifted program. The gifted program teacher and principal's designee will

make the final decision regarding continuation with input from the parent(s) and student. Parents who do not attend this meeting will be notified of the intervention team's recommendation for their child's continuation or discontinuation in the gifted program.

Parent/Guardian who decide to remove a student from the gifted program must make their request in writing to the gifted program teacher. The request must state the reason(s) for the request. This request for dismissal will be acknowledged by the gifted program teacher. A conference will be scheduled to discuss the student's placement. If parent(s)/guardian(s) have chosen to remove a student from the program and request reentry later, the guidelines for reentry will be the same as for a student who is not recommended for continuation (students must re-qualify). Students who have been dismissed, (or withdrawn due to parent/guardian/student request) can be referred for re-entry after two semesters. They must be able to demonstrate satisfactory academic achievement in all subject areas and meet eligibility criteria in place at the time of re-entry.

Field Trips

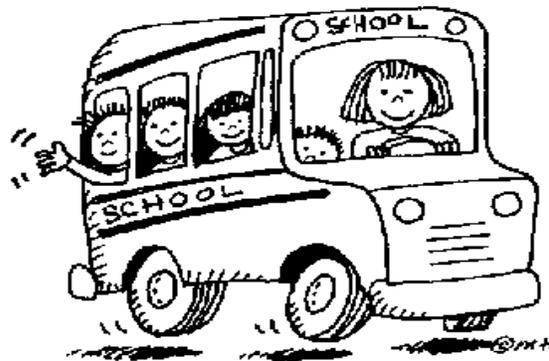
Field trips are an integral part of the instruction at the Program Challenge Center and will be scheduled to supplement the curriculum. These trips are designed to enhance the student's overall learning experience and expand their thinking. Safety while learning is of the utmost importance to the Enrichment Center; and for this reason, we feel it is necessary to implement certain policies concerning upcoming field trips.

Expectations are that students:

- * must exhibit expected appropriate behavior.
- * must be in good standing with bus conduct.
- * must maintain proper respect with authority figures.

Chaperones will be selected based on a need for adult to student ratio.

1. Chaperones must be on the GSCS approved list of volunteers.
2. Chaperones must be willing to supervise small groups of students and follow chaperone guidelines.
3. Approved chaperones are the only persons allowed to attend Enrichment Center field trips.
4. Chaperones MUST ride the bus to and from the destination.
5. All chaperones must be 23 years old to attend GSCS field trips.



Field Trip Deadlines

Deadlines are of the utmost importance.

Reservations must be made and buses must be requested. Deadlines not met will result in your child NOT attending field trips.

Chaperones wishing to attend field trips must also meet all deadlines and financial obligations to be considered for field trip attendance.

The Enrichment Center will not deny a child a field trip because of lack of funds; however, if sufficient funds are not collected to cover the cost of the trip, it may be cancelled.

We do offer a way for students with financial need to get help. Applications, letters of need from parent/guardian, and essays must be submitted in a timely manner in order to be considered. This is done on a case by case basis.

**There will be no refunds on trips after the money has been sent to the field trip destination.

**Last dates for refunds/partial refunds will be clearly typed on each permission/informational letter for each field trip.

General Information



Attendance

Students identified as gifted and whose participation has received parental consent shall receive at least five segments per week (or the yearly equivalent) of gifted services, using one of the approved gifted service models described in the Georgia Department of Education Resource Manual (Appendix A) for Gifted Education Services.

Student Attendance to Program Challenge is REQUIRED unless the student has an excused absence. Our curriculum moves quickly and is designed for gifted students. Challenging material will become overwhelming if students are absent frequently.

Communication

Communication with parents/guardians of our students is an important ingredient for the success of this gifted program.

Communication is accomplished through a variety of means:

- newsletters
- notes home
- telephone calls
- conferences
- Remind 101
- Facebook
- agenda
- progress reports
- e-mail
- parent group meetings

If you have questions call **770-229-3733**.

Curriculum

The curriculum topics at Program Challenge are constantly changing. We believe in a process-model curriculum. Our focus is open-ended, and we assess how learning develops with each learner. We keep in mind these three types of models when designing our curriculum:

Curriculum design types:	What it is:	Examples:
Subject-centered	We focus on specific subjects like math, science, and social studies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics • States of Matter • Marine Biology • Going Global • Anatomy • Animal Election
Learner- centered	We focus on student interest and goals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personalized Learning • Odyssey of the Mind • Great Griffin Shake
Problem- centered	We look at problems and formulate solutions to those problems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forensics • You be the Judge • Zoology • Breakout EDU • Survival • Makey Makey

Discipline

The discipline rules for our school system apply to students while at the Program Challenge Center and on the bus. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a courteous and respectful manner. In the event there are discipline problems, parents will be contacted either by phone, e-mail, or a note to advise them of the situation and any action taken. The Program Challenge teacher and the home school administrator will be advised of any incident which occurs at the center.

Fundraising

We use our fund raisers to purchase supplies and equipment for the center. We must have help in raising these funds and would like to ask for volunteers to help with organizing these events. We need your help and your guidance!

- Discount Card
- Art Project/Canvas Art
- Fine Arts Night
- Butter Braid Sale

In the past, we have had generous donations from individuals and from Camelot Theatre Company as well.

Lunch

Lunch is served daily at Program Challenge. The meals are prepared by the Griffin-Spalding County Nutrition Department and are delivered to the P.C. Center. Lunches must be paid through student's home school account. You may join us for lunch at 11:30. If you wish to order a school lunch, please call the office before 9 A.M. to place your order. Students may also bring lunches from home.

Important Papers

It is important that the P.C. Center has up-to-date information on your child! The green information sheet is of vital importance. This information allows the staff to get in touch with you in case of an emergency, alerts the staff of allergies or medical problems, and states who MAY or MAY NOT pick up your child from the Center. (Those picking up the students will be asked for identification and names will be verified from the list on YOUR CHILD'S GREEN SHEET). If a name cannot be verified and we cannot get in touch with the parent/guardian to get permission for the child to leave with that person, the child will not be released to that individual. Please make sure there is an up-to-date sheet on file in the office. This form is updated annually!

Other forms we must have returned to us:

- White medical card (both sides)
- Blue Internet Access permission form

Parent/Guardian Group

The Program Challenge Center has an active guardian support group. This group, formed in 1999, is affiliated with the Georgia Association for Gifted Children. The guardian group's main objective is to promote awareness and support the needs of the Spalding County K-5 Gifted students and the elementary Gifted Program.

Several goals of the parent group are:

- To promote the program to the public
- To educate guardians and other interested parties
- To educate business leaders and public officials
- To provide a forum to address concerns
- To offer students, teachers, and staff support
- To raise necessary funds for further development of the gifted program

Our meetings are held 3-4 times each year. We try to spotlight a particular group each time and we love for our parents/guardians to come and hear what we are doing!

Websites for Parents & Guardians of Gifted Children

www.mensaforkids.org

<http://sengifted.org>

www.gifted.org

www.nagc.org

Our Flexible Schedule

Arrival	Problem Solving/ Critical Thinking Skills
8:45 - 11:20	Course of Study
11:20 - 11:30	Wrap up Morning Learning Time
11:30 - 12:30	Lunch & Break/Recess
12:30 - 1:50	Afternoon Course of Study
1:50 - 2:10	Reflections of the Day

Supplies

Supplies are voluntary. Students will bring supplies on the first day of P.C. All supplies are left at the P.C. Center during the school year.

1st Graders:	Hand sanitizer
2nd Graders:	Quart or gallon size zip-locked bags
3rd Graders:	Paper towels
4th Graders:	1 pack of pencils
5th Graders:	Box of tissue

Transportation

Students are bussed to and from their home schools to the Program Challenge Center on their designated day of the week. Guardians may also transport their children. The school system's bus and transportation rules of conduct apply to Program Challenge students while in route to and from the Center as well on field trips.

Ways You Can Help!

- ★ Volunteer your time to the Center
- ★ Attend meetings
- ★ Attend school board meetings even when gifted education is not the main topic
- ★ Be a positive voice for school personnel at the Center and at your home school
- ★ Support fundraising efforts
- ★ Make personal contact with your state congressional representatives through person-to-person meetings, telephone calls, letters, etc.
- ★ Keep lines of communication open for teachers and our gifted program as well as our local school board