

EFFINGHAM COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT GIFTED EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

MIDDLE SCHOOL GIFTED PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

2017-2018

Effingham County offers a variety of programming options for gifted students. Middle School gifted students are served through a variety of models such as advanced content, cluster grouping, and collaboration between an endorsed gifted education teacher and general education teacher.

Gifted education is an integral part of Effingham County School District's total education program. Gifted students are provided differentiated lessons and challenging educational opportunities, which enhance and extend the Georgia Standards for Excellence (GSE) and Georgia Performance Standards. Students work on higher-level thinking activities using age appropriate materials. They are provided opportunities for complex, in-depth study designed to build thinking, research, communication, and technology skills.

Because students learn in a variety of ways, teaching methods include but are not limited to: direct instruction, guided practice, independent assignments, cooperative group activities, learning games, and planned experiences in order to meet the needs of the gifted identified Middle School students. We are also providing STEM and project based learning opportunities to gifted students in our schools. Through classroom activities and projects, our students will enhance their Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematical abilities with hands on activities that enrich the standards across the curriculum. Each of these methods allows teachers to differentiate their lessons to the individual needs of the students. The majority of all assignments are completed in class.

Middle School Gifted students may also participate in:

- Effingham County Chess League
- Model UN
- Effingham County Spelling Bee
- Beta Club
- Science Olympiad

Student achievement is evaluated using appropriate and specific criteria based on high expectations. Evaluation methods include graded work, teacher observation, and student self-evaluation.

Goals:

- Extend and enrich the CCGPS/GSE for advanced learners
- Develop and practice higher order and critical thinking skills
- Develop and practice creative thinking and problem solving skills
- Develop advanced research and study skills
- Develop and practice skills in the utilization of advanced technology
- Strengthen communication skills (verbal. Nonverbal. And written) using various forms of media
- Develop leadership and social skills
- Encourage students to develop "can-do" attitudes, positive self concept, and respect for others.