

# EFFINGHAM COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT GIFTED EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

## ELEMENTARY GIFTED PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

2017-2018

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.

In addition, elementary gifted students progress through the ECSD Gifted Education Curriculum, which provides a continuum of learning experiences to address the sequential and developmental needs of gifted students. Teaching methods include but are not limited to: direct instruction, guided practice, independent assignments, cooperative group activities, learning games, and planned experiences.

Gifted students participate in:

- P.E.T.S. Primary Education Thinking Skills
- Independent projects that may include but are not limited to: Invention Convention, Media Festival and Science Fair
- Chess Instruction
- Foreign Language study
  - K-2: Spanish
  - 3-5: Latin
- STEM Instruction
- Problem Based Learning

Elementary gifted students can be served through the following models: resource, advanced content, cluster, and/or collaborative. Through these models, gifted identified students receive differentiated instruction to meet their needs.

Student achievement is evaluated using appropriate and specific criteria based on high expectations. Evaluation methods include graded work, teacher observation, and student self-evaluation. Students served through the resource model will receive a GT grade on their report card.

### **Goals:**

- 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