

Frequently Asked Questions about the Middle School Centers for Gifted Studies Updated 10/2023

My child has never been in a full-time gifted program experience; how can I know if he/she will be successful?

Students who meet the criteria for gifted have the academic potential for success in a full-time gifted program. However, not all gifted students demonstrate the need for a full-time gifted curriculum that includes acceleration and advanced content in all subject areas. The curriculum at the middle school Centers for Gifted Studies is designed to provide a challenge and to promote academic growth. Important factors to consider are your child's willingness to meet an academic challenge and to persevere if the work is complex or difficult. Time management, self-direction and organizational skills are also important. Your child's elementary general education and gifted teachers can provide some guidance in making the decision to apply based on your child's performance. The teachers at the middle school Centers for Gifted Studies will work with students and parents to provide support as needed through the Educational Plan (EP) process.

Will elementary Center for Gifted Studies students be given priority acceptance for the middle school Centers for Gifted Studies?

Yes, elementary Center for Gifted Studies students have a feeder assurance to the middle school gifted center in their geographic application area. However, parents **must** follow the district process for application and acceptance. It doesn't happen automatically.

- The CGS at Elisa Nelson Elementary has feeder assurance to the CGS at Dunedin Highland Middle School.
- The CGS at Ridgcrest Elementary has feeder assurance to the CGS at Morgan Fitzgerald Middle School.
- The CGS at Midtown Academy has feeder assurance to the CGS at John Hopkins Middle School (arts) or the CGS at Thurgood Marshall Middle School (fundamental).

If my child is zoned for Dunedin, Fitzgerald or Hopkins, do I still need to apply for the Center for Gifted Studies?

Yes, parents must apply through the district application process for a seat in the Center for Gifted Studies.

To which Center for Gifted Studies site can my child apply?

Eligibility for middle school CGS programs is based on your zoned middle school.

Dunedin Highland: Students zoned for Dunedin Highland, Carwise, Palm Harbor, Safety Harbor & Tarpon Springs middle schools

Morgan Fitzgerald: Largo, Morgan Fitzgerald, Oak Grove, Osceola, Pinellas Park & Seminole middle schools

Johns Hopkins or Thurgood Marshall Fundamental: Azalea, Bay Point, John Hopkins, Meadowlawn & Tyrone middle schools

Type your address in here to check: <https://www.pcsb.org/zone>

Do I have to submit a copy of my child's Educational Plan (EP) with my application if my child is currently enrolled in gifted classes in a Pinellas County School?

No, gifted eligibility of Pinellas students can be verified through the district information system.

Will transportation be provided to the middle school Centers for Gifted Studies?

Yes, arterial bus transportation is provided to students who live more than two miles from the school.

Will the students accepted at Thurgood Marshall Fundamental Middle School Center for Gifted Studies be required to follow the policies of a fundamental school?

Yes, the Center for Gifted Studies is a school within a school magnet. Since Thurgood Marshall is a fundamental school, all students must adhere to the fundamental policies. Students will also have a priority to a fundamental high school.

Will the students accepted at John Hopkins Middle School Center for Gifted Studies be a part of the school's Center for the Arts?

Yes, the Center for Gifted Studies is a school within a school magnet. Since John Hopkins is also an arts magnet, students enrolled in this CGS will also be part of the Center for the Arts magnet and have access to the specialized arts electives.

Will the curriculum be a challenging, rigorous curriculum?

Yes, the curriculum for each class has been designed to provide accelerated course options, advanced content and enrichment based on best practices in gifted education.

Will courses in the Center for Gifted Studies count toward high school credit?

Yes, high school credit can be earned for successful completion of requirements for English 1 Honors, Algebra I Honors, Geometry Honors, Physical Science Honors, Pre-AP World History and Geography, and World Language I and 2.

Will the students take all coursework within the Center for Gifted Studies?

Students must take all of the courses required in the magnet curriculum (core content plus gifted elective). Each year students will enroll in elective courses at the school such as art, band, orchestra or technology. Elective course offerings are set by the school.

Will the students participate in competitions?

Yes, students may participate in the following national academic competitions: *National History Day*, *Future City Competition* and *Future Problem Solving*. Additional opportunities may also be available such as *Science Olympiad*, *Odyssey of the Mind*, and *Math Counts*.