



Gifted Service Overview for the 2020-2021 School Year

On June 30, Dr. Dixon shared recommendations for the reopening of school for the 2020-2021 school year. We know this is an uncertain time for all, and families have many questions as they weigh the options presented to them. Below is an overview of how the gifted services fit into the recommended learning options in Columbus City Schools.



Blended Learning Option for K-8/CC Curriculum Option for 9-12

- ***K-2 Literacy Enrichment Service:*** This service, set to debut in the fall of 2020, is for scholars in grades K-2 identified as gifted in superior cognitive ability, creative thinking, or reading. This service will continue but will be provided virtually for scholars to access during home instruction days. Gifted specialists will provide learning experiences within Google Classroom and may schedule live meetings during home instruction days to provide additional tailored support. They will utilize integrated curriculum units and other literacy tools designed for gifted learners to supplement core literacy instruction.
- ***3-5 Gifted Reading and/or Math Services:*** These daily reading and math classes are taught by a gifted specialist at select sites around the district. This service is for scholars entering grades 3-5 identified as gifted in superior cognitive ability or the subject area of the course. This service will continue with the gifted specialists teaching scholars two days on campus and assigning home instruction for the three days at home, just as will be the case for other classrooms in the district in the blended learning model. Gifted specialists will provide learning experiences within Google Classroom and will utilize adopted general and gifted curriculum materials to provide instruction.
- ***6-8 Gifted Reading and/or Math Services:*** These daily reading and math classes are taught by a classroom teacher with support from a gifted specialist at select sites around the district. This service is for scholars entering grades 6-8 identified as gifted in superior cognitive ability or the subject area of the course. This service will continue with the classroom teacher teaching scholars two days on campus and assigning home instruction for the three days at home, just as will be the case for other classrooms in the district in the blended learning model. Gifted specialists will provide support virtually and on site in conjunction with the classroom teacher and will utilize adopted general and gifted curriculum materials to provide instruction.
- ***6-8 Core Enrichment Service:*** This service, set to debut in the fall of 2020, is for scholars in grades 6-8 identified as gifted in superior cognitive ability or creative thinking. This daily enrichment course led by a gifted specialist was designed to provide opportunities for extension of the core curriculum. This service will continue with the gifted specialists teaching scholars two days on campus and assigning home instruction for the three days at home, just as will be the case for other classrooms in the district in the blended learning model. Gifted specialists will provide learning experiences within Google Classroom and will utilize adopted gifted curriculum materials to provide instruction.
- ***Columbus Gifted Academy 3-8:*** This service will continue with the CGA staff teaching scholars 2 days on campus and assigning home instruction for the three days at home, just as will be the case for other classrooms in the district in the blended learning model. Teachers will provide learning experiences within Google Classroom and will utilize district adopted gifted curriculum materials to provide instruction. At the middle school level, the home instruction days will replace the FLEX days that have historically been part of the schedule. Off campus learning experiences will not occur as they have in the past, but we are working with our partners to provide virtual learning experiences and lessons that bring the materials and resources of the partner into the school for our teachers to lead with our Scholars. Off campus visits will resume when it is safe to do so and allowable under district guidelines and procedures.
- ***9-10 Gifted Support Elective:*** This service, set to debut in the fall of 2020, is for scholars in grades 9 and 10 identified as gifted in superior cognitive ability or creative thinking. This daily elective course led by a gifted specialist was designed to be a virtual course and provide opportunities for social emotional support, research skill development, and preparation for college and career transitions. This service will continue with the gifted specialists teaching scholars virtually five days per week as originally designed. Gifted specialists will provide learning experiences within Google Classroom or Canvas.
- ***Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Classes:*** These courses will continue to be available to Scholars who opt into the high school remote instruction option led by CCS teachers in a manner similar to other district high school course offerings.

CCS Digital Academy Option for K-12

- This program is delivered through the Edgenuity (K-8) and Apex (9-12) learning platforms. It is a core curriculum structure that includes pre-designed, standards-based lessons. Instruction is not directed by a teacher, but rather is self-paced.
- Gifted services are not available in the Digital Academy option. However, scholars may progress through the lessons at their own pace, which may be appropriate for scholars who learn at a faster rate than is typical or expected. (**Scholars may be able to move on to the next course in the sequence dependent on placement decisions following an acceleration evaluation in line with district procedures.)
- Scholars who have previously been formally subject accelerated will be able to continue their accelerated pathway in the Digital Academy.

Please keep in mind that the recommendations from Dr. Dixon are subject to change based on ongoing developments and guidelines from various authorities. In the event the options for educational settings change, this document will be updated and posted on the Gifted & Talented website (www.ccsok.us/gifted) to reflect those changes.

We recognize none of the solutions are perfect. Unfortunately, our current global situation has created the need to implement less than ideal alternatives in order to ensure the health and well-being of our scholars, staff, and community while providing learning opportunities in the best way possible within those limitations. We encourage you to consider each option in light of the academic, social-emotional, and health needs of your specific scholar and family and select the option that is going to best address those needs. That will be different family to family. Thank you for your ongoing partnership as we educate the gifted learners in our community.

Blended/Digital Gifted Service Frequently Asked Questions

1. *What curriculum will be used by gifted specialists in the blended learning model?*

Gifted specialists will have an array of curriculum resources to utilize when instructing their gifted learners. This includes the newly adopted reading and math curriculum being provided for all students in the district this year along with the existing reading and math curricular units developed by the Center for Gifted Education at the College of William and Mary. Those reading and math units have been used to supplement and, when appropriate, replace grade level curriculum based on the learning needs of gifted scholars receiving formal gifted services. Additionally, the district has purchased a subscription to Byrdseed, a collection of online, standards-based lessons designed specifically for gifted learners in grades 3 through 6. Teachers will be able to incorporate these lessons into their instruction both at school and home. Gifted specialists also have access to a wide array of supplemental resources that can be utilized in the classroom or sent home for home-based learning days, such as Jacob's Ladder Reading Comprehension program and Math Rules math problems.

2. *Will CGA's middle school schedule in the blended learning option still include FLEX days and off campus visits?*

The CGA middle school schedule has typically included two traditional days of scheduled periods for direct instruction, 2 flexible learning (FLEX) days, and one day for off campus visits. In the blended learning model, the FLEX days will occur during the home-based instruction days so that teachers can provide direct instruction when scholars are on site. At this time, we are not permitted to engage in off-campus learning experiences. However, we are working with our partners to bring in virtual experiences and provide some of the hands-on experiences at CGA's campus as feasible. If we are able to resume off-campus learning experiences at some point this year, we will do so.

3. *If we opt into the CCS Digital Academy, will my child have instruction provided by a gifted specialist?*

Scholars will not receive instruction from a gifted specialist if they are schooled through the Digital Academy. The Digital Academy uses the Edgenuity (K-8) and Apex (9-12) platforms to deliver instruction. Scholars may progress at their own pace, which may be appropriate for gifted learners who may learn faster than what is usually expected for their grade level.

4. Can elementary school scholars who have been formally subject accelerated take their above grade level subject course at that accelerated level if enrolled in the CCS Digital Academy?

Yes. Scholars who are formally accelerated into an above grade level course (such as a 4th grade who has been accelerated into 5th grade math) would be enrolled in their grade level courses for most subjects as appropriate and the above grade level course in the area that has been accelerated.

5. Can middle school scholars who are scheduled to take one or more high school courses do that if enrolled in the CCS Digital Academy?

Yes. Middle school scholars who have been formally accelerated at some point and are scheduled to take high school courses for the 2020-2021 school year will be enrolled in both Digital Academy learning platforms. They will take their middle school courses in Edgenuity using their Edgenuity login and will take their high school course(s) in Apex using an Apex login.

6. If we opt into the CCS Digital Academy and my scholar completes a course before the year is over, will he/she be able to begin the course for the next grade level?

Scholars who complete courses in the Digital Academy may be able to accelerate into the next course level if deemed appropriate following an acceleration evaluation following district procedures. There are specific time frames for such acceleration referrals and evaluations to occur and assessments that will be required to scholars to complete on campus at a scheduled time.

7. If we opt into the CCS Digital Academy, can my middle school scholar take a course in Edgenuity that is not offered at his/her middle school (such as a world language course)? If so, and if we change enrollment to blended learning option mid-year, can my scholar continue to complete the course in Edgenuity?

This possibility is currently being explored, and more information will be forthcoming.

8. If we opt into the CCS Digital Academy, can my high school scholar take an Advanced Placement course that is not offered at his/her high school? If so, and if we return to school or change enrollment to the CCS teacher-led virtual option mid-year, can my scholar continue to complete the course in Apex?

This possibility is currently being explored, and more information will be forthcoming.

9. If we opt into the CCS Digital Academy, will my child lose his or her spot in gifted services?

Scholars who enroll in the CCS Digital Academy will maintain enrollment in their currently assigned school. If you returned a gifted service form for the 2020-2021 school year and that placement was confirmed, your child would return to that school and gifted service if you withdraw from the Digital Academy and return to the primary enrollment school mid-year. This includes scholars who are currently enrolled in Columbus Gifted Academy, leave to attend the Digital Academy, and then wish to return to CGA mid-year.

10. Can we enroll our scholar in the CCS Digital Academy for most classes but bring him/her to school for gifted instruction?

No. Due to safety precautions, we cannot have students and adults coming in and out of buildings throughout the day for individual classes.

11. If we opt to withdraw our child from the district to attend a private, charter, or other online schooling option, will my child lose his or her spot in gifted services?

Scholars who withdraw from the district are withdrawn from their gifted services. If you opt to have your scholar return to Columbus City Schools mid-year, your child would be able to return to their assigned gifted service site and participate in gifted services if space is available at the time of re-enrollment. If you decide to have your child complete the entire year outside of CCS and return for the 2021-2022 school year, a gifted service selection form will be provided at the time of re-enrollment with placement made in accordance with the district's published placement procedures.

12. If we decide to enroll our scholar in the CCS Digital Academy or a non-CCS school, do we need to notify the Gifted & Talented Division?

No. Scholars will automatically be withdrawn from gifted services when registered for the Digital Academy or withdrawn from the district. If, at some point, you have your child return to a CCS campus, please contact the Gifted & Talented Division so we can be sure he/she is appropriately placed in the gifted services previously selected.