



GIFTED AND TALENTED
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Mission: Each student is highly educated, prepared for leadership and service, and empowered for success as a citizen in a global community.

Columbus Gifted Academy Frequently Asked Questions

In accordance with state law, the district has established a process for identifying students as gifted and providing gifted services. Here are common questions about the process. If you have additional questions, please contact the Gifted & Talented Division at 614-365-6626.

1. *How are placements made?*

Placements are made based on identification area. Students are matched to the service that aligns with their area(s) of gifted identification. Location is determined by current school enrollment and home address.

2. *What if my child is not identified until after the service offer period?*

Students identified as gifted before the beginning of the new school year will be offered the appropriate service at the assigned location for the upcoming school year. Students identified after the school year begins will be eligible for services beginning the following school year.

3. *Where is the Columbus Gifted Academy located?*

The program is located at the former Everett building at 100 W. 4th Ave. in the Short North. The building is centrally-located and accessible to scholars across the city, and it is a short distance from many of our community partners.

4. *My child was enrolled in the Columbus Gifted Academy this year. Will he/she be automatically enrolled in the program next year?*

Students currently enrolled in the Columbus Gifted Academy will be able to retain their seat in the program for the following school year.

5. *What if we do not want to have our child continue at the Columbus Gifted Academy next year?*

Families should submit a Return to Home School form to the School Choice Office and should submit an updated Service Selection Agreement to the Gifted & Talented office by the deadlines posted.

6. *If more students apply for the Columbus Gifted Academy than there are available seats, how will students be selected?*

Students will be assigned points for areas of gifted identification and then ranked by total points. Students will be ranked within each point bracket by most recent cognitive test score then most recent average reading and math score. Placements will begin at the top of the list until seats are filled. A waiting list will be maintained in case placed students should decline or withdraw from the placement.

7. *What bell schedule will the program follow?*

Columbus Gifted Academy will follow an elementary bell schedule with class starting at 9am and ending at 3:30pm.

8. *Is there a school uniform?*

Columbus Gifted Academy will not have a school uniform. Students are expected to dress in accordance with the district student dress code.

9. *Can we tour the building or visit the teachers?*

Tours can be arranged by calling the school directly to schedule a visit. Tours are offered by appointment only.

10. Will students in the middle school program be able to take high school math and foreign language?

Students will be able to progress through math instruction at their own pace, which may lead to high school level math instruction. While we are not able to offer a foreign language course at this time, there will be opportunities for students to engage in independent studies, and students may elect to pursue foreign language independently. We will work with those students to assist them with pursuing high school credit through the district's credit flexibility program.

11. Will students at CGA still be able to participate in the arts and sports?

Unified Arts instruction, including art, physical education, and music (both vocal and instrumental for middle school students), will occur on site at CGA. Drama will be embedded into the classroom instructional program. Middle school students interested in the district sports program may participate with their home school of record. This participation will require students to be transported back to their home school for practice in lieu of a second unified arts period in the afternoon. Families must provide their own transportation.

12. Will students at CGA have extracurricular clubs on site?

Many of the district's enrichment programs will be embedded into daily classroom instruction. Other clubs may be formed based on student interest and available volunteers to run the programs. Additionally, students engage in self-select "clubs" once afternoon per week during the school day. Students commit to their chosen club for a set period of time and then may select a different choice in the club session.

13. Can students participate in co-curricular events (BizTown, camp, BalletMet, etc.) or other enrichment clubs (Destination Imagination, Chess, etc.) at their home school?

The idea behind Columbus Gifted Academy is to provide an academic program that is appropriately challenging, interesting, and enriching for the whole child within the single setting. Having students shuffle to their home schools for these other events can be disruptive to the overall academic experience of the student, his or her classmates, and students at the home school. Many, but not all, of the same co-curricular and extracurricular activities will be available to students at the Columbus Gifted Academy. Additionally, some different opportunities will be available to CGA students that are not available to students in other buildings due to the specific needs of CGA attendees. We strongly encourage families to consider the school/program elements most important to them and most aligned to the needs of their child and select service placement based on those personal priorities and desires. Then once service is selected, we encourage families to become immersed in the selected program or school in order to make the most of the overarching program plan.

14. Can 7th and 8th grade students participate in College Credit Plus (CCP)?

Students in grades 7 and 8 who apply for and are accepted by a university to participate in the College Credit Plus program may do so provided it works within the student schedule. The CGA middle school program runs on an atypical schedule that varies day-to-day and includes numerous off-campus learning experiences that are a central part of the core curriculum. Students may not miss these experiences due to CCP, as they will be missing key instruction in their other courses. Because of our number of community partners, CGA is unable to schedule off-site experiences around students' CCP schedule. Families who wish to utilize CCP may find a traditional middle school setting is a more appropriate option for the remainder of their day.

15. Will my child lose his/her spot at our lottery school if enrolled in the self-contained gifted program?

Students maintain their primary enrollment at their current school even though they do not attend school at that site. Enrollment in the self-contained gifted program is a secondary enrollment. However, students may not accept a *new* lottery placement while maintaining enrollment at Columbus Gifted Academy. Acceptance of a new lottery placement will result in the student attending the lottery school and the CGA enrollment being ended for the school year of the lottery offer.

16. Will gifted specialists be working directly with students who are gifted?

Gifted instructional specialists will teach the core content classes at the self-contained gifted program.

17. Can siblings enroll in program?

Sibling may only enroll if they meet the eligibility criteria following the same placement procedures as other scholars.

18. Is there a parent-teacher organization?

Yes. A very active PTO helps support the work at CGA. We encourage all parents to become members and participate as able. Parents are also encouraged to participate in the PACE organization, which is a district-wide parent advocacy group affiliated with the Ohio Association for Gifted Children. This group acts on behalf of the 5000+ identified gifted students and their families by advocating at local and state levels, providing resources and parent education programs, and sharing information.

19. Will Latchkey service be available?

Latchkey is not available at this time. Students may enroll at latchkey programs at their home schools.

20. Is transportation provided to the program and to before or after-school care?

Transportation is provided in accordance with district transportation rules for all students. If a student lives within 2 miles of the building, he/she is considered a walker. Bus transportation is provided to students with a home address more than 2 miles from the program or if the walking route is deemed too dangerous. Parents may file a request for transportation to after-school care programs by submitting Form 1 (available online). For more information about transportation, please call the Transportation Office at 365-5074 or visit the website at www.ccsch.us/Transportation.

21. We live outside of the CCS district and attend through an interdistrict open enrollment agreement. Does this letter of services guarantee our spot in the district next year?

No, it does not. Rules about space availability as set forth in the Interdistrict Open Enrollment agreement still apply. To participate in the reading or math services at the elementary and middle schools, students must be accepted by Interdistrict Open Enrollment to the building offering the service in order to access gifted services in that building. To participate in the Columbus Gifted Academy, students must be accepted through Interdistrict Open Enrollment to a district building to serve as the "primary enrollment." Additionally, all eligible/interested students who reside within the district must be placed before an IOE student may be placed at the Academy. As with all IOE situations, families must reapply each year.

22. What if I decide to withdraw my student from a service mid-year?

A withdrawal form (available online or from the Gifted & Talented office) must be submitted to the Gifted & Talented office. Students who withdraw before the first Friday in September will be able to return to their home school. After that date, all attempts will be made to place the student back at the home school. If space is not available at the home school, the student may be placed at an alternate location and may return to the home school the following year. The School Choice Office and Central Enrollment will assist with any adjustments to school enrollment required. After the first week of the school year, withdrawal requires a conference with the teacher, a 4-6 week intervention plan to address any concerns, and a follow-up conference before a withdrawal will be approved.

23. If I withdraw my child or decline gifted services for my child this school year, will he or she be excluded from services in the future?

Any service decision made by you is in effect for one school year. If services are offered in future grade levels, your student will be able to participate in those services provided he or she meets the placement criteria in existence at that time for those specific services.

24. Do students from Columbus Gifted Academy middle school program automatically feed into a particular high school?

At this time, there is not a feeder pattern established from CGA into a high school. However, all CGA students who maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA in 7th grade are eligible to apply for selective admissions into Columbus Alternative High School and Eastmoor Academy. Any CGA students identified as gifted in the arts may apply for selective admissions into Fort Hayes. Selective admissions applications are available to eligible students in January of the 8th grade year. Exiting 8th graders may also opt to attend their home high school by address or apply for the high school of their choice through the district lottery process.

(Updated 2/25/2020)