

UNITS OF STUDY

3RD GRADE

- Shakespeare: interdisciplinary, creative problem solving literature study
- Chasing Vermeer: interdisciplinary, art theft novel study
- Spanish language

4TH GRADE

- Mystery Festival: a crime scene, problem based learning unit; Mystery Novel text set
- Explorations: an in-depth study about colonizing outer space
- Spanish culture

5TH GRADE

- Titanic/Biltmore: an in-depth study of the Titanic and Biltmore Estate
- Bridges: a creative problem solving unit where students will design, create, and test their own bridges
- French language

6TH GRADE

- Curative Conundrum: A Problem-Based Learning unit where students identify an unknown illness
- Genius Hour
- French culture
- Design mini-units

All EXCEL classes participate in district-wide, off campus field studies.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EXCEL

ACADEMICALLY GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM



GIFTED & TALENTED EXCEL PROGRAM

Spartanburg One provides a gifted and talented academic program for those students who are identified beginning in grade three as demonstrating high performance ability in academic and/or artistic areas. These students are provided opportunities to expand their learning beyond what is normally provided by the general school program to achieve their potential. Elementary students are served in a pullout program in their home school. Academically gifted students in middle and high school are served through the honors and AP course curriculums.

Spartanburg School District One follows the SCDE pullout model for instruction.

Students in grade three receive 4,500 minutes of instruction each year; grades 4-6 receive 7,200 minutes. During this pull-out model, no new material is introduced in regular classroom instruction.

PURPOSE

- Identify students who meet the eligibility criteria in at least two out of three gifted and talented services.
- To assess the aptitudes, attributes, and behaviors of each student; and
- To evaluate each student for the purposes of placement.

IDENTIFICATION

Spartanburg School District One uses state criteria to identify academically gifted and talented students. Schools willingly accept referrals from parents and teachers through November of each year.

EXCEL CRITERIA

DIMENSION A: REASONING ABILITIES

Dimension of Academic Aptitude

- At or above 93rd national age percentile on verbal/linguistic, quantitative/mathematical, nonverbal, and/or a composite score. For aptitude scores alone at or above 96th percentile in grades 3-6.

DIMENSION B: ACHIEVEMENT

Test of Academic Achievement

- At or above 94th percentile in reading comprehension and/or math concepts/problem solving or a score of advanced on the math or reading portion of state testing.

DIMENSION C: ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

South Carolina Performance Task Assessment

- Verbal and/or Nonverbal score depending on grade level

AREAS OF IDENTIFICATION

Verbally Gifted

- Students who enjoy reading and read well, have advanced vocabulary, and enjoy word puzzles and word play.

Nonverbally Gifted

- Students who enjoy math and hands-on activities, have advanced spatial reasoning abilities, and enjoy puzzles and patterns.

INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN

- Linked to the student's area(s) of identification
- Challenging opportunities for higher order thinking, analysis, logical reasoning, and creative problem solving

EXCEL EXPECTATIONS

- Students are challenged and are learning new concepts
- Students pursue deeper and more complex work
- Students are not frustrated by work that is too easy or too difficult