

## Gifted Praeditus Program Syllabus Grades K-8

Ms. Jennifer Ellison

Leadership Preparatory Academy

Email: [jennifer.ellison.lpa@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.ellison.lpa@gmail.com)

Webpage: [ellison-gifted.weebly.com](http://ellison-gifted.weebly.com)

### **Overview**

The Georgia State Department of Education defines a gifted student as “. . . a student who demonstrates a high degree of intellectual, creative and/or artistic ability, possesses exceptional leadership skills, or excels in specific academic fields and who needs special instruction and/or special ancillary services to achieve at levels commensurate with his or her abilities.” This course is designed to bring gifted children together to experience a variety of challenging activities through research skills, critical thinking and problem-solving. Common Core Georgia Performance Standards will be taught through interdisciplinary units that include mini projects, enrichment, extended activities and a technology component.

**How is the Gifted and Talented curriculum different?** Student instruction is based on the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS). Students engage in 2-4 interdisciplinary units throughout the year. Interdisciplinary units include Language Arts, Math, Social Studies and/or Science. The gifted and talented units will differentiate the CCGPS according to the following Gifted Standards:

- Advanced Critical Thinking
- Advanced Communication Skills
- Advanced Research Skills
- Creative Problem Solving

The difference is not in what is taught but how it is taught. Students will have opportunities to think more in depth, critically, and creatively about the CCGPS. The enriched environment creates exposure opportunities for gifted students. They will practice advanced research skills which will ultimately prepare them for advanced learning at the middle school, high school and college levels.

**The Goal of the Gifted Program at Clifton Elementary** is to provide students opportunities that stretch thinking beyond the regular classroom curriculum. Through the gifted program here at Clifton, we seek to empower students to become creative thinkers, critical thinkers, and problem solvers. Research has shown that children who are continually learning and who can apply new knowledge to complex, novel, open – ended challenges will perform confidently and competently in 21<sup>st</sup> century learning. The gifted program curriculum is enriched and accelerated to meet the students’ learning needs through the use of project-based learning, hands-on lessons, and analytical thinking skills units.

#### **Two main needs of gifted students:**

1. Meet the intellectual and academic needs (engaging in high level, interesting and relevant content).
2. Meet the social and emotional needs (interacting with like-minded peers).

**Common Core Georgia Performance Standards:** Common Core Georgia Performance Standards (CCCPS) will be taught during this course. Please refer to the Common Core Standards for detailed listings of standards. [www.ga.doe.org](http://www.ga.doe.org)

**Interdisciplinary Learning Units:** Cooperative groups will consist of research, creative thinking, creative writing, visualization and oral presentations.

**Participation in competitions:** Academic Bowls, Science Fair, Technology Fair, Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl, Writing Contest, etc.

**Critical thinking and higher order activities:** Each class is opened by writing, analyzing, or discussing a “Just Think” activity.

**Project based learning:** Students will have at least two projects per semester.

**Technology:** Internet sites are provided to enhance the content and background knowledge.

**Class Dojo:** used to monitor student classroom and work behaviors

**Grading Scale:** Students will be evaluated with a rubric for each assignment. Students will receive a **PASS (100 – 70)** or **FAIL (69 -0)** for academic content as well as conduct/behavior for our gifted class.

**Class Expectations:**

- Follow directions the first time they are given
- Be prepared for class, bring required materials to class everyday, unless told otherwise by the teacher
- Listen and stay seated when someone is speaking
- Turn in assignments on time
- Treat everyone and their property respectfully, remember the Golden Rule: “Treat others the same as you want them to treat you”

**Policies/Regulations:** Progress Reports will be issued at week 4.5, week 9, week 13.5 and week 18 Report Cards will be issued at end of the semester.

**Field Trips:** K-4 and 5-8 (Details are coming soon!)

**Remind101:** Updates and homework reminders. Please go to our webpage to join our class.

**Material:** All students will need a composition notebook (the notebook will remain in class).

**Homework Policy:** Homework is due the last week of each month. Reminders will be sent via Remind101 and Class Dojo...For homework not turned in or turned in late, point deductions will be made. Late Work and Make-Up Work Incomplete or not-handed-in (NHI) assignments will have a point deduction. Make-up work resulting from an excused absence must be completed and turned in within five days of the absence. If the assignment was issued before the absence, the original due date still applies.

**Grade Weights:** Class Work-45%, Assessment During Learning-25%, Summative Assessment-30% and Pre-Assessments-0%

**Rules and Procedures:** To ensure a productive learning environment, these classroom rules apply: 1. Be respectful and considerate. 2. Be on task. 3. Be prepared and on time each day. 4. Be mindful of class procedures. 5. Be positive: participate and show effort. 6. Follow all school rules and district policies.

**Disruption of the learning environment** results in the four-step plan: 1. Rule reminder 2. Warning/Parent Contact 3. Removed from class that day 4. Discipline Referral

\*Please email Ms. Ellison at [jennifer.ellison.lpa@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.ellison.lpa@gmail.com) to verify that this syllabus has been read.

Copy and paste to email: “I have read and understand the Gifted syllabus.”

Sincerely,

*Jennifer Ellison*