



Gaston County Schools **Collegiate Prep** Academy

Gifted and Talented Academy at Pleasant Ridge Elementary School **Frequently Asked Questions**

1. What is a Gifted and Talented Academy?

The Academy is designed especially for students who demonstrate academic excellence and have the ability to excel in a dynamic school environment. It will provide accelerated learning for students and offer exciting academic and extracurricular activities. Students will:

- Participate in in-depth study of topics in science, math, reading, and other subjects;
- Engage in problem-solving and critical thinking;
- Use modern technology as a learning tool;
- Develop leadership skills; and
- Flourish in their capacity to think creatively and at a higher level.

Above all else, the Academy will help students to expand their intellect, encourage high academic achievement, and nurture personal goals and development.

2. Who can apply to the Gifted and Talented Academy at Pleasant Ridge Elementary?

Students who will be in grades K-5 for the upcoming school year may apply. Students should demonstrate academic excellence in one of two ways: 1) they meet the qualifications for our Academically and Intellectually Gifted (AIG) program or 2) they are in the top 10 percent academically for their grade level.

3. Do I have to apply? Does my child have to meet entrance requirements? Is there a lottery?

Yes. There is an application process, and parents may apply online. Students qualify for the Academy if they meet the requirements for our Academically and Intellectually Gifted (AIG) program or they are in the top 10 percent academically for their grade level. Students who apply and qualify will be entered into a lottery, which will select the students who will attend the Academy.



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4. Is the Academy open to students outside of Gaston County Schools?

Yes, but a parent/legal guardian must reside in Gaston County. Students who currently attend charter, private, or home schools may apply. A screening process will be used to determine if students outside of Gaston County Schools meet the admission requirements.

5. What kind of teachers will my child have?

The teachers will have AIG certification and experience teaching in an accelerated classroom setting. The teachers will facilitate lessons and activities that move students beyond what they could achieve in a traditional setting. Teachers will concentrate more attention on content areas with an emphasis on in-depth exploration, critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, hands-on activities, and personalized small-group and one-to-one interaction.

6. Why should I consider the Academy for my child? What are the benefits? The

Academy will offer a challenging and innovative school environment for children who are advanced in their learning ability. They will be engaged in daily instruction tailored especially for the gifted student. Most important, the Academy will prepare students for accelerated learning during their entire school career as they move on to middle school, high school, and college.

7. What is the earliest I can drop my child off and the latest I can pick up my child?

7:30am Drop Off and 3:45pm Pick Up