



Welcome to QUEST! QUEST is Spartanburg Preparatory School's Academic Gifted and Talented Program. Congratulations to you and your child for earning a spot in the QUEST program. Your child is either State Identified QUEST or QUEST Trial Placement. There are only a few differences throughout the syllabus, and they are each referenced. Review the syllabus below and direct any questions to the contact listed.

Course Description:

This course is designed to meet the needs of the academically gifted and talented students and students who show potential to be state identified as gifted and talented through the standard measures implemented by Spartanburg Preparatory School. The curriculum designed specifically for this course meets the guidelines set forth by the South Carolina State Department of Education as criteria for Gifted and Talented instruction. Students should expect to find curriculum challenging in a number of ways: text complexity, analytical writing, problem solving, creative endeavors, and accelerated pace.

Academic and Quarterly Focus:

Our primary focus in the QUEST program is to meet the criteria of STEM. We will focus on one component per quarter in addition to our regular studies of advanced reading and advanced math. Additionally, we focus weekly on nonverbal skills such as spatial and logistical thinking. Our weekly studies are typically thematic to worldly events or seasons.
Quarter One: Science; Quarter Two: Technology; Quarter Three: Engineering; Quarter Four: Math

QUEST Goals:

1. SPS will recognize the learning and development differences of students with academic gifts and talents both affectively and cognitively to ensure specific outcomes.
2. SPS will provide equal opportunity to students with academic gifts and talents through a non-bias referral, screening, and identification process.
3. SPS will apply the theories and best practices based on research - based strategies for students with academic gifts and talents.
4. SPS will ensure a learning environment that fosters personal and social responsibility, multicultural competence, and technical communication skills for students with academic gifts and talents.
5. SPS will develop and implement programming that meets the concomitant needs of students with academic gifts and talents.
6. SPS will formally assess ongoing professional development needs related to the standards and development of students with academic gifts and talents.

Instructional Materials / Required Text:

There is a required supply list for QUEST students. If your child has not brought in his/her school supplies for QUEST, please refer to the school website or FB page to find the list. There is no required text as we use a multitude of texts to reach our goals. Finally, there will be times and units of study where additional materials may be needed from home. Those needs will be communicated in a timely manner.

Assessment/Calculations of Grades:

QUEST Trial Placement students do not receive a grade for QUEST class. State identified QUEST students do receive a quarterly grade for QUEST. Assessments are informal, unannounced, and measure only progress. Students are only graded on their effort and progress toward specific goals. Students are not graded for mastery in QUEST class.

Missed Work/Makeup/Homework Policies:

Students will not miss any regular work in their general education classes while in QUEST. Teachers do not teach new material on QUEST days, and QUEST students are not to receive homework on QUEST days. Additionally, the only homework from QUEST class is optional and voluntary by the student. If the general education teacher gives a weekly assignment, QUEST students have an additional 24 hours to complete those assignments. Missed work/makeup work in the QUEST classroom will be handled on an individual basis.

Classroom Expectations and Workshop:

Students are expected to follow all expectations set forth by the teacher. Our QUEST classroom has one rule: RESPECT. This is a big word that can be shown through many different methods. We practice those weekly. Students who do not meet my

expectations join me during recess for a workshop where we practice the expectation that was not met. If your child has to participate in a recess workshop with me, you will be notified via email.

Communication:

I expect guardians and families to communicate any questions, concerns, or praises to me via any of the below communication tools. I will do the same to you. There is not a scheduled, weekly communication since this is not a general education course; however, I do expect your child to fill you in on QUEST day with what he/she learned and was challenged with. Additionally, I upload current projects and work onto our website weekly for various grade levels.

Spsgt.weebly.com

Academic Schedule:

Please review your child's status and grade level carefully to see when he/she is in the QUEST classroom:

- 3rd Grade QUEST: Tuesday all day + IAT on M,T,W,TH (separate location on TH)
- 3rd Grade QUEST Trial Placement: Tuesday all day
- 4th Grade QUEST: Wednesday all day + IAT on M,T,W,TH (separate location on TH)
- 4th Grade QUEST Trial Placement: Wednesday all day
- 5th Grade QUEST: Thursday all day + IAT on M,T,W,TH (separate location on TH)
- 5th Grade QUEST Trial Placement: Thursday all day
- 6th Grade QUEST: IAT on M,T,W,TH,F
- 7th Grade QUEST: IAT on W,TH,F Semester 1 and IAT on TH,F Semester 2
- 8th Grade QUEST: IAT ON TH,F Semester 1 and IAT on W,TH,F Semester 2

Additional Information:

The QUEST classroom follows all school rules and procedures with no exceptions. Please review the student handbook with your child to ensure you are meeting the expectations set forth by SPS. There will be a QUEST Field Trip toward the end of the school year. Please prepare to spend between \$50-\$100 for this trip.

Classroom Motto:

We have a classroom motto and theme of YET. The word YET signals room and opportunity for growth. No matter how advanced or well we perform, there is always room to improve and grow. That is our focus in the QUEST classroom. Additionally, we focus on the social/emotional needs and well being of advanced students using the 16 Habits of Mind.

Monthly Parent Workshops:

There will be monthly parent workshops offered during the evenings that address commonalities within academically or artistically advanced students. This is also a time to answer any questions and develop a community of parents that supports our QUEST program. The themes are below, and the dates and times are TBD. This information will be sent home soon.

September	Six Types of Giftedness and Advocacy
October	Social/Emotional Needs of Gifted
November	Perfectionism/Frustration in Giftedness
December	Cultural Diversities and Lack Thereof in Giftedness
January	Gender Successes / Issues in Giftedness
February	Introversion and Extroversion in Giftedness Gifted Education beyond 8th grade - what to expect, how to plan, etc
March	Acceleration for the Gifted
April	Parenting the Gifted and Solutions
May	Underachievement in Giftedness Planning Session for 2020-2021 school year

Communication Tools:

- Email: kelly.waters@spartanburgprep.org
- Text or Call: 864-491-1786 (hours of 7AM - 9PM only)
- Call: 864-621-3882 and leave a message with the front office