

Springfield Scholars Informational Meeting

2026-2027

The Phelps Center for Gifted Education ~ 934 S. Kimbrough Avenue, Springfield, MO 65806



SCHOLARS HISTORY

■ **1996** A group of seven 7th grade students and one teacher relocated from a WINGS full-time elementary pilot program at the Phelps Center for Gifted Education to Central High School.

■ **2025** Currently, the Scholars program serves 120 students in grades six through eight. Each year, the number of applicants **far** exceeds the number of allotted placements.
(175 applicants / 40 placements)

Our mission

The Phelps Center for Gifted Education will ensure the exceptional needs of all gifted learners are addressed through the development of complex reasoning, creative thinking, and affective processing skills.

Our vision

As a statewide leader in gifted education, the Phelps Center for Gifted Education aspires to build an empowering learning community that prepares students, parents, and educators by developing potential, capacity, and advocacy.

SCHOLARS COURSE CONTENT

Scholars students are enrolled in accelerated middle school courses and district high school courses.

6th GRADE Scholars Courses

Required:

English Language
ArtsArts/Social Studies
Pre-Algebra or Algebra
Science

Electives:

Choir, Band, Orchestra,
PE/Health, or Art
Foundations (for HS
Credit)

7th GRADE Scholars Courses

Required:

Social Studies
English Language Arts

High School Courses:

Earth Science Honors
Math (appropriate level)
Foreign Language
and/or other electives

8th GRADE Scholars Courses

Required:

Humanities
Philosophy

High School Courses:

Physics First Honors
Math (appropriate level)
Foreign Language
and/or other electives

All 6th grade Scholars core courses are located together, on the main floor, along with the Scholars Office.

A background image showing a cross-country race. In the foreground, a female runner in a green singlet and black shorts with bib number 1388 is running on a grassy field. Another runner is partially visible behind her. In the background, a crowd of spectators is lined up on the right side of the path, and bare trees are visible under a clear blue sky.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

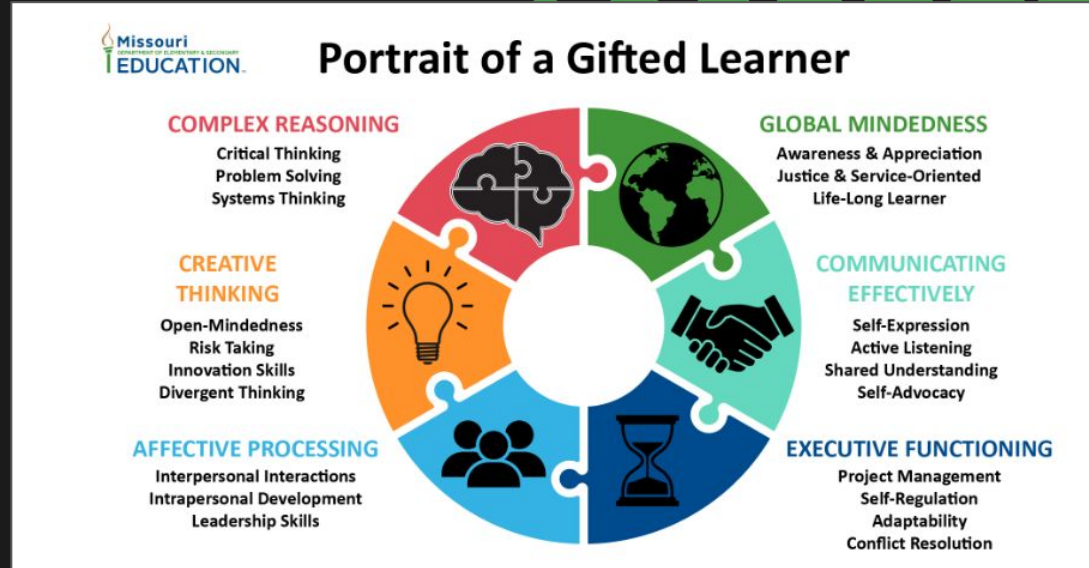
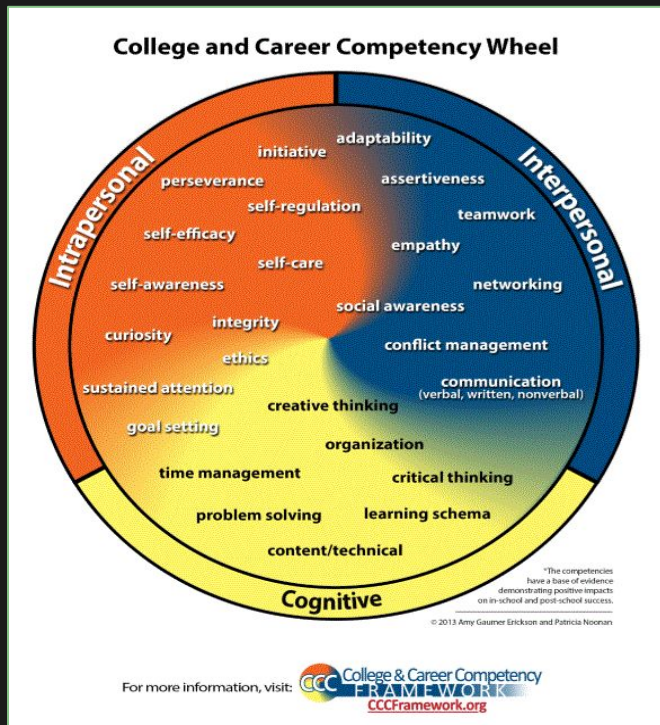
Choose one of three options each year:

1. **Scholars PE and Health
@ Central** No Dressing-Out
2. **Launch PE and Health
Online Only**
3. **Explore PE and Health
Summer - Offered Seated and Online**

HIGH SCHOOL ELECTIVES

- ❖ Arts/Graphic Design
- ❖ Computers/Media
- ❖ Culinary Arts
- ❖ Debate
- ❖ Drama
- ❖ Foreign Language
- ❖ Journalism
- ❖ Music

Affective Resources

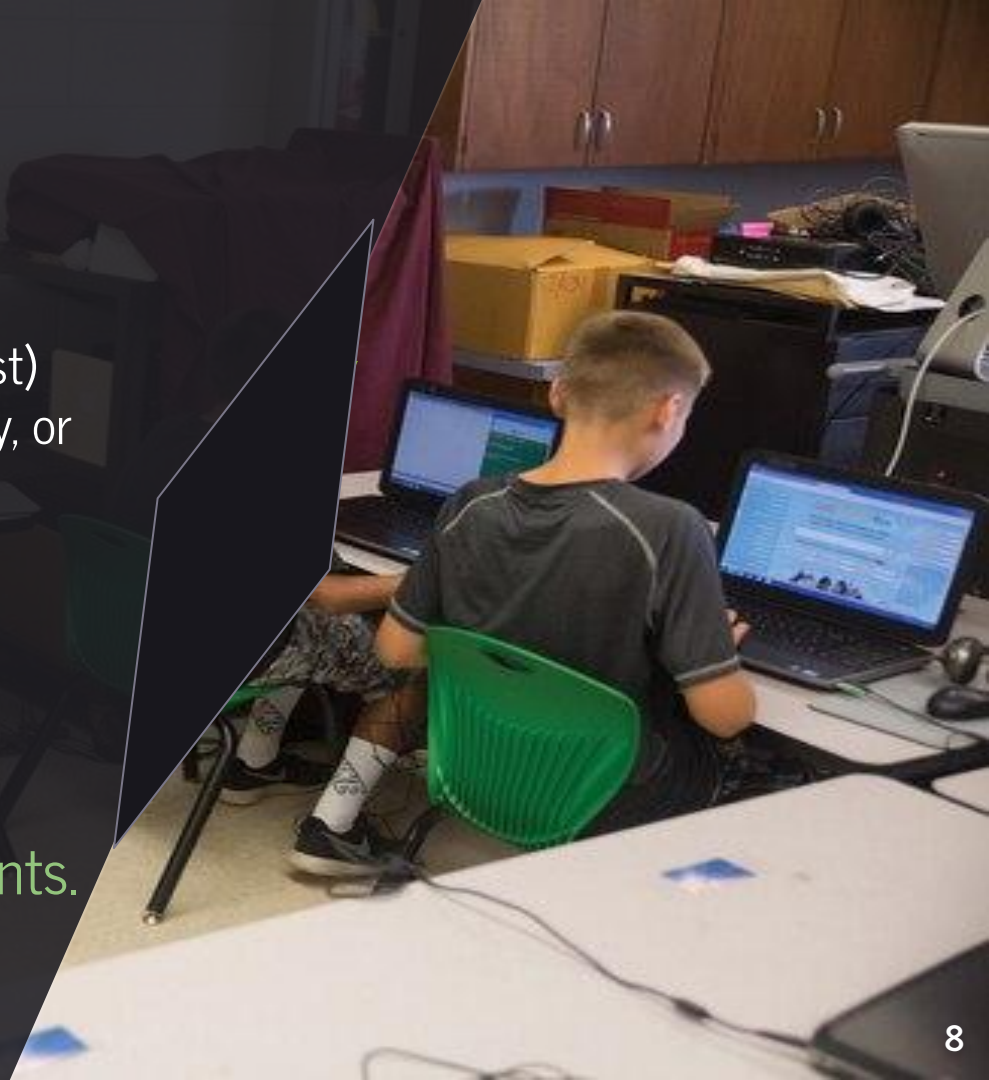


The College and Career Competency Wheel and the Portrait of a Gifted Learner direct our Missouri Gifted Learner Outcomes (MOGLO) or gifted standards. Students will be working on developing their intrapersonal and interpersonal skills. The skills listed here are what all gifted learners need to be successful in life and serve as a guide for our affective program.

Current State and District ASSESSMENTS:

- ❖ Missouri Assessment Program (MAP Test)
- ❖ End of Course (EOC) Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II
- ❖ Renaissance and District Common Assessments

Scholars students are required to maintain scores at the proficient or advanced levels on district assessments.



ACADEMIC RECORDS

Grading

- Students receive grades for Scholars and high school classes.

- Criteria for grades are provided at the beginning of each class.

Transcripts

- Students are enrolled in Scholars and high school classes.

- Scholars program information is included with transcripts sent to other districts or higher education institutions.

GPA

- High school courses taken by Scholars students **will be included** in their high school GPA.



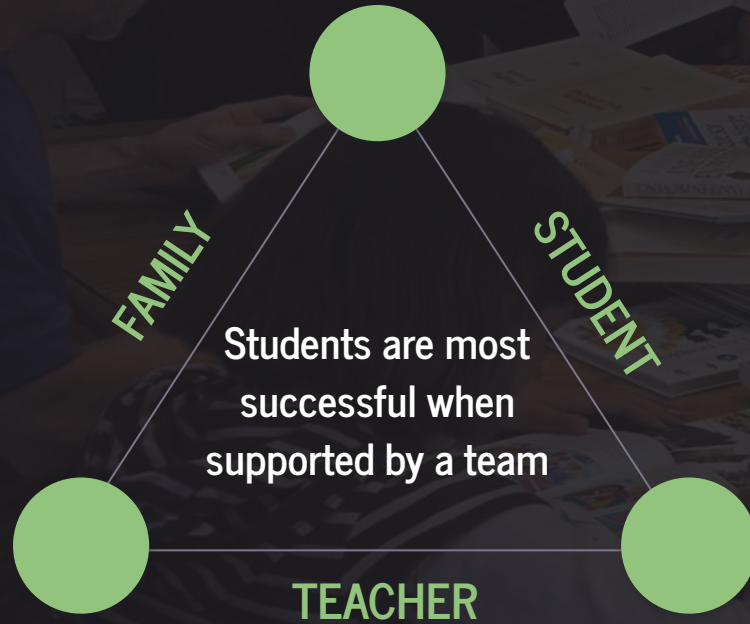


STUDY AND ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS

Scholars students:

- are enrolled with high school students within their high school courses
- are evaluated using the same standards as high school students
- will have homework and should possess strong study and organizational skills

SCHOLARS FORMULA FOR SUCCESS



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Competitions

Archery
Art
Battle of the Books
Debate
LAD/Essay
Math
Music
National History Day
Robotics
Scholars Bowl
Science Fair
Science Olympiad

Sports

Central High School competitive activities
are HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY

Most middle school athletic programs
are available through the student's SPS
school of residency

Scholars Extracurriculars

Makerspace
Student Council
Yearbook

A complete list of Central High School
clubs and organizations open to
Scholars students is distributed at the
beginning of each school year.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Bussing

Students are eligible for busing
Pick up is at nearest corner
Brought directly to Central

Lunch

6th graders eat lunch during first period
7th & 8th graders eat lunch based on
course schedule

Report Cards

Progress reports at mid-term and
quarter

Interaction with older students

Scholars has been a part of the CHS student
body for over 25 years
Approximately 95% of Scholars students
choose to remain at Central
Scholars Alumni support new students

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

SCHOLARS IS NOT:

- A regular middle school classroom.

SCHOLARS IS:

- A unique and challenging program that differs greatly from a regular MS experience.

SCHOLARS IS NOT:

- A full-time WINGS program in a different location.

SCHOLARS IS:

- A highly accelerated academic program.

STRESS

Scholars students (and their families) must be able to handle stress as it relates to high academic expectations.

ACHIEVEMENT

Scholars students require strong study and academic skills, and self-motivation to be successful in the program.

NOT IB

Scholars is not a part of the International Baccalaureate Programme or a prerequisite for IB.

GPA

Scholars students in HS courses receive grades and credits that count towards their high school GPA/ transcripts.

SELECTION CRITERIA AND FORMULA

Scholars Application for Consideration
Assessments:

- WISC-V x 2 (current within 12 months)
- NNAT
- SCAT (Verbal & Math)
- District Assessments
- Each applicant will attain a composite score based on the above information that is used for placement
- Students must have and maintain at least 90% attendance or better.

SELECTION TIMELINE

 **September 5:** Application mailed to eligible 5th grade students

September 18: Informational Meeting 5:30pm Phelps Cafeteria



October 3: Application **DEADLINE** for 1st round consideration



Sept & Oct: Assessments (individual and small group)



November 21: Notification of selection by US mail



December 1: DUE DATE for prospective Scholars students

- Turn in signed Enrollment form to the Phelps Center.
- Complete an online Immediate Transfer. (Instructions will be provided.)
- Schedule one full Shadow Day at Central High School. (Instructions will be provided.)

DEADLINE for 2nd round applications



December 5: DROP DATE Prospective students who have not completed all three steps of the enrollment process will forfeit their placement in the Scholars program.

WHAT NEXT?

Read and reflect on all the information in this presentation and have an in-depth discussion with your child . . .

- ❓ Is a significantly accelerated academic program in a non-traditional setting a good “fit” for them?
- ❓ Does past and present academic performance indicate future success with regards to skills and commitment?
- ❓ Does my child meet the attendance requirements as outlined by the district transfer policy?

NEXT STEPS for FIRST ROUND CONSIDERATION

If you answered **YES** to all of those questions,

SUBMIT APPLICATION by

3:00pm Friday, OCTOBER 3, 2025

to the Phelps Center for Gifted Education.

Additional questions should be directed to:

Dr. Andrea Fraser

Principal of K-12
Gifted Services

afraser@spsmail.org

Mrs. Helen Williams

Coordinator of K-12
Gifted Services

hcwilliams@spsmail.org



If you are on the fence,
it is better to go ahead
and submit the
application and follow
the procedures.
If selected, you can
always turn it down.

SCHOLARS SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES



PAGE Scholars group: mopagesgf.org



Monthly social activities

Past events:



Bowling, swimming, movies,
dances, game nights, skating,
and community service.

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, consisting of a grid of green squares. Each square is divided diagonally from the top-left to the bottom-right, with the top-left half being a lighter shade of green and the bottom-right half being a darker shade. The grid is 5 squares wide and 5 squares high.

THANK YOU

... for considering the Springfield Scholars program for your child's educational needs.