

# NEWS FROM ACADEMICALLY GIFTED

## The Middle School Edition

Quarter 4

Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened. ~ **Dr. Seuss**

As we approach the end of the year, it's time to celebrate the growth your child has made this year. It is also time to prepare for the next successful school year. Listed below are the top 10 skills middle school students need to develop for school and life success. As you read the list, reflect on ways you can help your child build these skills over the summer so that they are ready for another year of growth in 2024 - 2025!

1. **Make good friend choices**
2. **Work in teams and negotiate conflict**
3. **Create organization and homework systems**
4. **Monitor and take responsibility for grades**
5. **Learn to self-advocate**
6. **Self-regulate emotions**
7. **Cultivate passion and recognize limitations**
8. **Make responsible, safe, and ethical choices**
9. **Be creative and innovative**



In addition to working on these skills, you may want your child to participate in summer enrichment opportunities.

- For select rising 9<sup>th</sup> grade students, the AG Department sponsors the Academic All-Star Camp. Notification to students selected to participate were sent home in April. Please contact Dr. Dee Jordan, AG Coordinator with any questions ([jordand@gcsnc.com](mailto:jordand@gcsnc.com)).
- For rising 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders, below are some regional options. Please note that except for those listed as “GCS”, these programs have not been vetted nor endorsed by Guilford County Schools. You can use the link or QR code below to access more information about these summer enrichment opportunities.

- Community Theatre of Greensboro & GCS Summer Arts Institute
- Ferrum College Summer Enrichment Camps
- GCS Academic All-Star Camp (Select Rising 9<sup>th</sup> Graders)
- GCS AP Boot Camp (For students enrolling in AP Courses for the first time)
- Guilford Technical Community College (GTCC) Titan Tech Camps
- iDTech Camps at Davidson College, NC State, and UNC-Chapel Hill
- NC A&T Summer Enrichment Camps
- UNCG Summer Enrichment Camps

Link: <https://bit.ly/GCSSummer2024>

QR Code:

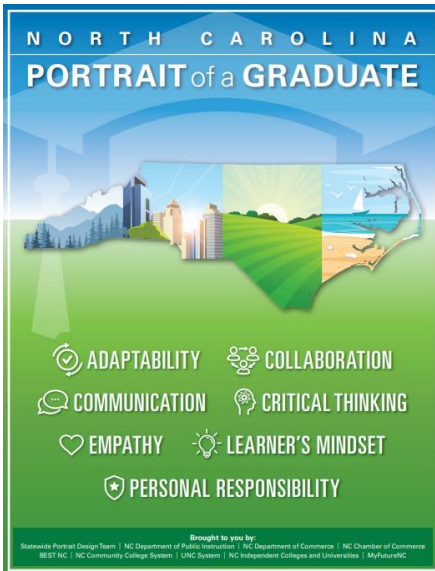


### **Update Regarding VS Eligibility (Rising 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> ONLY):**

The Very Strong (VS) Program is housed exclusively at The Academy at Lincoln. In this program, eligible students receive instruction that addresses the need for acceleration, extension, and enrichment for highly gifted students. To qualify for the VS Program, students must meet the following criteria:

- Math, Reading, and composite Aptitude performance at the 97<sup>th</sup>ile or higher. For Math and Reading, the student must also have scored a Level 5 on the 2024 EOG.
- For Math, the student must be able to follow the math sequence used in the VS Program.
  - A current 6<sup>th</sup> grader must be enrolled in a course that leads to NC Math 1 placement.
  - A current 7<sup>th</sup> grader must be enrolled in NC Math 1.
- Science and Social Studies performance at the 95<sup>th</sup>ile or higher.
- An “A” average in all core-subject areas.

If you would like to submit a late request to determine your child's eligibility for the VS Program, please use this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/pMQpus3ZRS>.



## How Adults Can Listen and Respond to Student Voices

*This article has been adapted from an article, by the same title, written by Dr. Michele Kane that appeared in the June 2020 issue of Parenting for High Potential published by the National Association of Gifted Children (NAGC).*

This newsletter is our last newsletter of the year and our final installment into our introduction of the NC Portrait of a Graduate, the state’s effort to highlight the durable skills North Carolina students will need for post-secondary development. In our Quarter 3 newsletter, we began our deeper five into how the needs expressed by gifted learners are linked to the NC Portrait of a Graduate competencies. The chart below continues with the same focus. To learn more about the needs expressed by academically and/or intellectually gifted students, [click here](#). To learn more about the NC Portrait of a Graduate, [click here](#). If you have any issues with accessing the hyperlinks, the URLs have been provided at the

bottom of the chart.

What Gifted Learners Had to Say:	What It Looks Like: Linking to NC Portrait of a Graduate	How Adults Can Respond Supportively:
When not overdone, sports/athletics and other extracurricular activities can be a great stabilizer.	<b>Learner’s Mindset and Personal Responsibility:</b> The student can explain why it is important to explore a topic of personal interest. Using time management skills, the student can develop a plan to complete a task – this would include time for practice and/or performances. The student understands the connection between practice and performance. The student can persist in completing goals.	Fine extracurricular activities, such as sports, that encourage, cultivate, and support friendships along with talent development.  Help your child develop a balanced lifestyle that includes time for academics, extracurricular, family/friends, and self-care. Do not overly schedule your child. This means it may be best to focus on one or two areas of interest. It is better for a student to have one to two strongly developed extracurricular activities versus mediocre skills in several activities.
Many academically and/or intellectually gifted students have keen social justice awareness and desires to make a difference.	<b>Adaptability, Collaboration, Critical Thinking, and Empathy:</b> Using relevant facts and details the student can support their opinion. The student allows others to share their ideas. In a collaborative setting, the student works with others to make decisions that values the expressed interest of all in the group. Additionally, the student can choose appropriate responses when faced with situations that may require change.	Help your child create a Student Leader 4-Step Plan: (1) Research the issue; (2) Find and build a team; (3) Build a base of awareness; and (4) Implement practical ideas.  Have family discussions regarding current events and their impact.  Consider having your child participate in Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, or other groups that allow students to develop leadership skills for community impact.

Compiled by Dr. Dee Jordan, AG Coordinator

Link to article: <https://bit.ly/42f4EyQ>

Link to NC Portrait of a Graduate: <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/> (search “NC Portrait of a Graduate”)