Gifted and Talented



The Gifted and Talented Program is a needs based program provided to qualifying students in the Springdale School District. Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade students receive enrichment services within their regular classroom. Identified students receive services with the GT facilitator for 150 minutes each week in the GT classroom.

Identified students are provided with lessons and activities to support social/emotional growth as it pertains to being gifted and talented. Identified students also have the opportunity for extended and accelerated learning in core content areas.

Parents wishing to pursue placement in the program for their student should contact Larry Cooper or Nancy Halsey, Gifted and Talented Facilitators at lcooper@sdale.org (3-5), nhalsey@sdale.org (k-2), or notify your student's teacher.

K-2 Enrichment **Nancy Halsey nhalsey@sdale.org**	**3-5 Gifted and Talented** **Larry Cooper lcooper@sdale.org**
This month has been filled with testing, testing, and more testing for the GT program. Identification and placement of gifted and talented students begins at the end of second grade. Placement letters will be going out on May 15th. My last enrichment classes for K-2 will be the week of May 6th. I've really enjoyed working with the younger students at Rollins and the exceptional K-2 teachers who have helped during each lesson. In kindergarten, for our last lesson, I will introduce the "Umbrella Game" to help them think categorically. In first and second grade we will be solving some mysteries using lateral thinking. Lateral thinking involves creativity in solving problems. When school is out for the summer don't forget to keep your child thinking. Play vocabulary games with them. If you take a vacation, have your child work on asking good questions in the car, as opposed to "Are we there yet?". Haha! There's a great word game called "Hink Pinks" that I always played in the car with my own children.	I am Larry Cooper, the new GT facilitator at the Jim Rollins School of Innovation. I am responsible for providing services to gifted and talented students in the third, fourth, and fifth grades. I have already met some of the teachers and students at Rollins, and I am excited to have this opportunity to work alongside such dedicated educators and delightful students. We are going to accomplish great things together at Rollins in the spring semester of 2024. My area of focus as GT facilitator will be helping my students sharpen their literacy skills. We will spend time each week reading and discussing both fiction and non-fiction selections. We will also have an activity each week that develops student proficiency in some area of science, technology, engineering, art, or math. In addition, I plan to spend time every week helping my students develop their abilities to use planning, strategy, and tactics by teaching them how to play chess. Finally, I plan to work with each student to help them find a project that speaks to their individual interests and passions. I want to give every student protected time in class to work on an individual project – this may be to build a robot, write a play, paint a canvas, produce a podcast, or whatever creative endeavor challenges them and supports their personal goals. I will be talking with my students early in the semester to help them decide

You describe something to them and they answer with a rhyming pair. Here are some examples: An "angry father" would be a "mad dad". A "chubby kitten" would be a "fat cat".
Here's a "Hinky Pinky": "Goofy William" would be "Silly Billy".
You can look Hink Pinks up online to provide you with a list or you can challenge your own brain and think of them on your own!
Keep those brains churning!

what project captures their interest.

The week of March 4, GT students will host an astronomy party during parent conferences. We will set up one or more telescopes for everybody to look through. It will be pretty early in the evening, but we hope to get a nice look at the planet Jupiter. Also this week, students will be looking through microscopes and learning about the anatomy of a paramecium and a paddy leaf.

Well, we didn't quite make it to our novel last week, so we will be beginning Hatchet the week of March 11. We are also going to have a fun activity to learn the phases of Earth's Moon. If the weather cooperates with us, one day we will take a telescope outside during the day and get a little practice in preparation for an upcoming star party later in the spring. I have sent out permission forms for a field trip that will take place on March 25. If you have not received that from your child, please ask them for it. Also, we are seeking parent chaperones for the field trip.

The week of March 11 is our last week of classes before spring break, and when we return on Monday, March 25, it will be time for our field trip to the Amazeum and Crystal Bridges. Please make sure your GT student has turned in their field trip permission form! Also this week, we hope that the weather cooperates and we get a chance to go outside and look at the Sun with a solar filter.

I deeply appreciate the many parents who volunteered their time to make our field trip to the Amazeum and Crystal Bridges a fantastic success! The kids had a great time and we absolutely could not have done it without the generous participation of our amazing Rollins moms and dads. Your kindness is gratefully received.

In the month of April I will be out of town doing some traveling to which I committed before coming to teach at Rollins. I will return in the first week of May, and as soon as we have a good clear day with quiet skies, one of our first projects will be to build and launch model rockets. It's going to be exciting!

This week we are working around MAP testing, but as our testing schedule permits we will be breaking into book discussion groups. Fifth graders will begin building model rockets on Monday (May 6) and they will start training in rocket safety so that they can help the other grades launch their rockets later this month. This Saturday: CHESS TOURNAMENT!
