

Discovery School

Changing Tomorrow Today!



Discovery School *Background*

- District-conceived in 1998
- Taskforce Created in 1999
- Planning Grant
- Implementation Grant
- Opened - August 2000 (grades K-3)
- Dissemination Grant
- Sponsored Charter School Showcase in Charleston, SC
- Added Grade 4
- Added Grade 5
- Helped create South Carolina's Public Charter School Association
- Recognized by the Center for Education Reform (2007)
- Expansion Plan
- Charter School Authorizer of the Year - 2020 (LCSD Board of Trustees)



Discovery School Curriculum

- Core Knowledge ELA
- Junior Great Books (K-5)
- Write From the Beginning (Thinking Maps)
- Core Knowledge Science
- Core Knowledge Social Studies
- Envision Math



Discovery School *Pedagogy*

- E.D. Hirsch's Core Knowledge
- Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences
- Kaplan's Dimensions of Depth & Complexity
- Taba's Model of Concept Development
- Visual Thinking (Harvard's Project Zero) / Thinking Maps Program
- Torrance Model of Creativity
- Problem-Based Learning based on Shelagh Gallagher's Model
- Renzulli's School-Wide Enrichment Model
- Shared Inquiry / Socratic Questioning
- Personalized Learning
- Positive Discipline & Love and Logic
- Covey's Seven Habits

Discovery School *Annual Theme*

SIX YEAR ROTATION

- Power of One
- Beyond Imagination
- World Cultures
- Everyday Leadership
- Discover Lancaster
- STEAM



Discovery School Offerings

CORE CLASSES

- Core Content (ELA, math, science & social studies)
- SC State Standards
- Core Knowledge Standards (includes classic literature, geography, US History, World History, Government, etc.)



ENRICHMENT CLASSES

- Music Connections
- Drama
- Creative Movement
- Visual Arts
- MI Flow Room
- World Languages
- Media Center
- Technology
- Guidance
- Brain Boosters / Let's Think
- STEAM

Discovery School *Structure*

Governance

- **Sponsor:** Lancaster County School District Board of Trustees
- LCSD Superintendent
- Discovery School Leadership Team (Site Manager & Lead Teacher)
- Discovery School Governing Board
- Discovery School Advisory Board
- Discovery School Student Council

Parent / Community Involvement

- Parents As Partners Agreement
- Learning Pathways / PEPs
- Student-Led Conferences
- Alliances with Higher Education (Converse College, USCL, York Tech, and Winthrop)
- Annual Festival Prep
- Career Days
- Alliance with LCCA, Local Black History Museum, Converse College

Discovery School *Accolades*

- National Charter School of the Year - 2007 (Center for Education Reform)
- Leadership Team invited to speak at the Capitol Building - Washington, DC
- 12 Time Recipient Palmetto Gold & Silver Awards
- Over \$900,000 in grants received
- Founding Member of SC Charter School Association
- 100% of our full-time faculty are endorsed in gifted & talented
- NAGC national conference featured site visit location (Brain Boosters Prgm.)
- Top 30% in SC - Overall test ranking (niche.com)
- Top 34% in SC - Best elementary charter schools in the state (niche.com)
- Ranked #9 on a scale of 1-10 for overall school quality in SC (neighborhoodscout.com)
- Healthy waiting list each year based on lottery results



Discovery School

Student Quotes

- “I like my school because we get to do science experiments.” Riles Hilton
- “My favorite thing about Discovery School is getting to DO instead of worksheets.” Aubrey Luchene
- “Teachers are nice.” Majour Blair
- “I like Discovery School because I can interact when I am learning and it is fun. I can learn new things in many different ways.” Wren Nash
- “Discovery School is a place where you learn,play, have fun, make friends and follow your dreams so always be fired up and ready!!!” Khloe Martinez
- “We get to do science experiments.” Aamias Grier
- “Discovery School is awesome because the teachers and staff are always helping you or other people. The teachers also make stuff to learn about way more fun.” Alexis Hilton
- “My favorite thing is the teachers.” Rylynn Clyburn
- “The things I love about this school are - the teachers, recess, lunch, math, reading, and getting to do new things in math.” Elijah Stover
- “This is the best school anyone can go to and I hope it stays safe and hopes it goes well.” Aiden Martinez

Discovery School

Parent Quotes

- “I’m so thankful Lancaster County School District has a charter school as an option in the school district. I can only pray the option will stay for years to come.” - Dana Hilton
- “Our son, Zachary, has excelled so much in the short amount of time that he has attended Discovery School. Mrs. Robinson really knows how to give each child individual attention to ensure they are learning at a good pace. We feel very lucky to have been chosen for our son to attend Discovery School.” - Ashley Levesque
- “Our family has been with Discovery School for 8 years this year. We love Discovery School because everyone is like family! We never have to question if we are welcome or cared for!” - Lyndsay Casey
- “Last year, the teachers at Discovery School presented a framework for Personalized Learning that I am thrilled to have my children be a part of. It is an exciting idea to have students in their earliest years have so much choice in their learning and be able to take responsibility for their pace.” - Amanda Whitten

Questions

About Discovery School?

LCSD Gifted & Talented Program

No Limits...



LCSD Gifted & Talented Program

Background & History

- Founded 1977
- Originally used a pull-out model at elementary level
- 1984-85 program expanded into the middle schools (special class model)
- 2009-2010 middle school focus shifted to ELA and math (pre-AP)
- Junior Scholars Program (1985)
- Advanced Placement Classes (HS)
- Dual Credit Classes (HS)
- Pull-out program moved to Central School (1994-95)
- Pull-out program expanded to ILE (2015-2016)
- Pull-out program expanded to all elementary schools (2020-2021)
- Currently each elementary school has 1-2 EAGLE Program teachers
- Student population has grown from approx. 350 students in 1994 to 860 students in 2020 at the elementary level with very similar growth at the middle school level
- Beginning next school year we will count 9th & 10th grade high school students for funding

What are some differences between high achievers, gifted learners & creative thinkers?



HIGH ACHIEVER	GIFTED LEARNER	CREATIVE THINKER
Remembers the answers	Poses unforeseen questions	Sees exceptions
Is attentive	Is selectively mentally engaged	Daydreams; may seem off task
Works hard to achieve	Knows without working hard	Plays with ideas and concepts
Needs 6-8 repetitions to master	Needs 1-3 repetitions to master	Questions the need for mastery
Completes assignments on time	Initiates projects and extensions of assignments	Initiates more projects than will ever be completed
Is pleased with own learning	Is self-critical	Is never finished with possibilities

LCSD Gifted & Talented Program *Identification*

State Criteria

Students Must Meet 2 of 3 Dimensions

DIMENSION A

- **Aptitude Test Score** of 93rd percentile or higher (any sub-test)

DIMENSION B

- **Achievement Test Score** of 94th percentile or higher **OR** in the top 10% of SC Ready scores in the state (math or reading)

DIMENSION C

- **Appropriate Performance Task Score** or **GPA** of 3.75 or higher (5th grade & up)

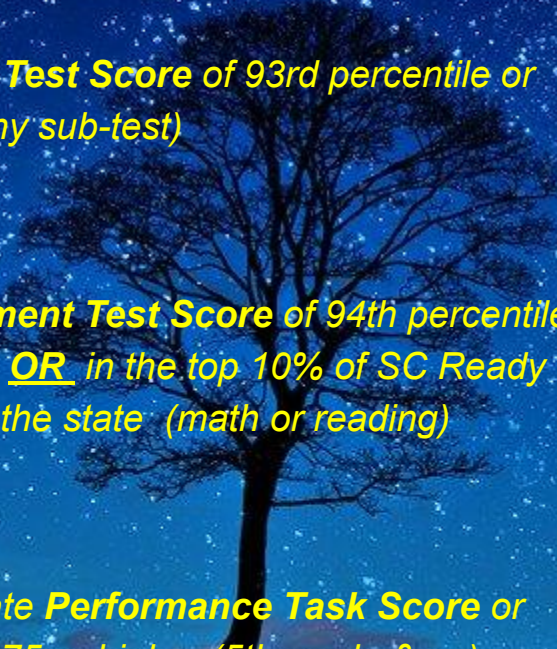
Local Criteria

Students Must Meet 1 of 3 Dimensions and be very close in a 2nd Dimension

- **Dimension A** (within 2 percentile points)
- **Dimension B** (within 2 percentile points or within 10 points on the raw score of SC Ready)
- **Dimension C** (within 2 points of a qualifying score on the Performance Task or a GPA of 3.50)

OR

- Student was **previously served** in a **program for gifted or talent development** in a prior school district or state



LCSD Gifted & Talented Program Curriculum

Elementary Level

- *Junior Great Books 3-5*
- *M3 (Mentoring Mathematical Minds) from the National Research Center for G/T at UCONN*
- *Generation Genius (STEAM)*
- *STEM Biography Blueprints (from UAK at Little Rock)*
- *Changing Tomorrow (Leadership Units)*
- *Thrively (online strength & interest-based platform for talent development) - all content areas*

Middle Level

- *ELA: Junior Great Books 6-8; Shared Inquiry Approach*
- *Math: Acceleration through pacing, depth & complexity*

High School Level

- *Pre-AP ELA (9th & 10th grades)*
- *Pre-AP Mathematics (9th & 10th)*
- *Dual Credit Courses*
- *AP Courses*

LCSD Gifted & Talented Program *Pedagogy*

- Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences
- Sternberg's Triarchic Intelligence Model
- Kaplan's Dimensions of Depth & Complexity
- Taba's Model of Concept Development
- Visual Thinking (Harvard's Project Zero) / Thinking Maps Program
- Van Tassel-Baska's Integrated Curriculum Model
- Problem-Based Learning based on Shelagh Gallagher's Model
- Project-Based Learning
- Shared Inquiry / Socratic Questioning
- SC's Best Practices in Gifted Education
- NAGC's National Programming Standards



*Approved
Program
Models in
SC*

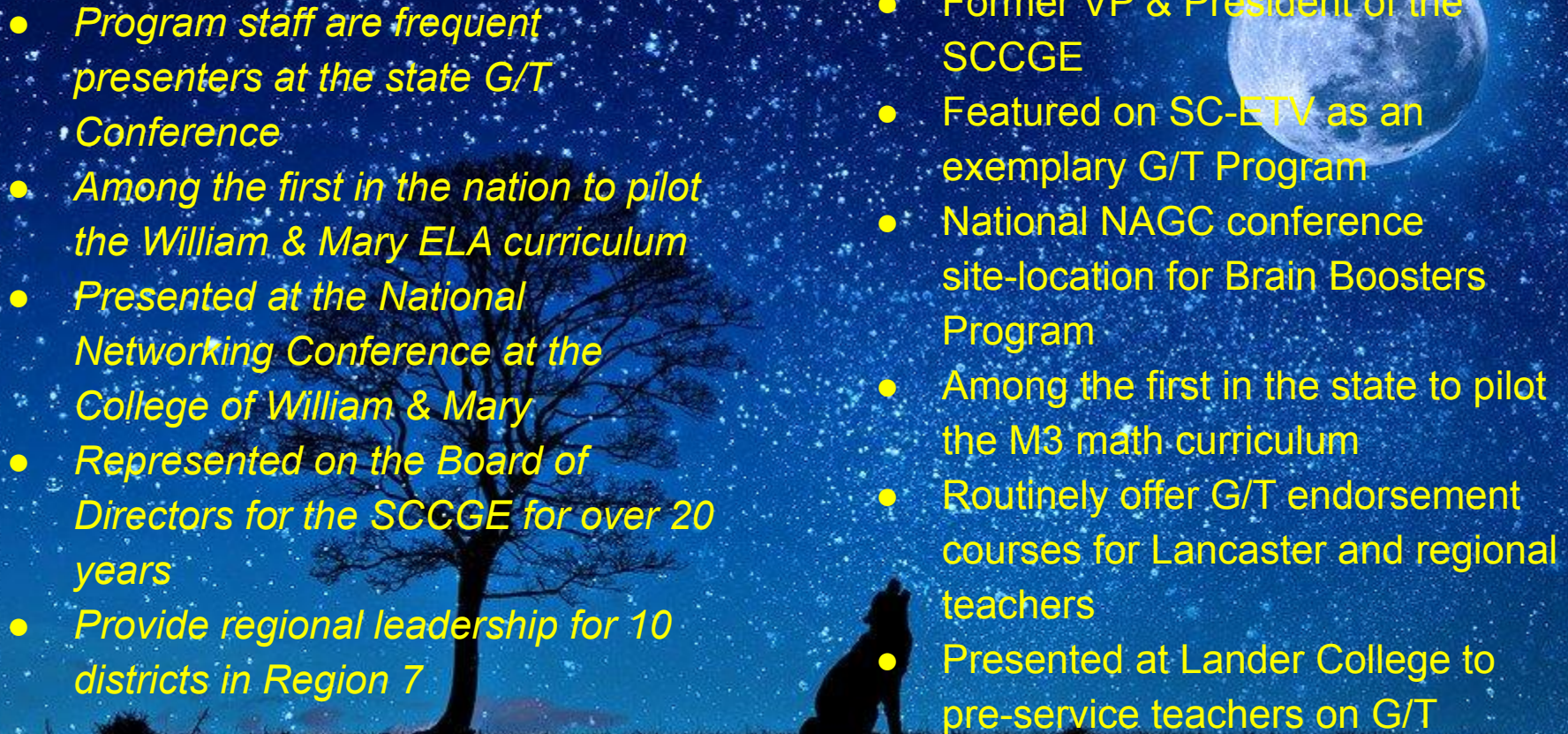
- Pull-Out Resource Center Model (used in grades 3-5 throughout the LCSD)
- Special Class Model (used in grades 6-10 throughout the LCSD)
- Special School Model (Governor's Schools for the Arts & Math and Science)

LCSD Gifted & Talented Program *Artistic Program*

- *For over 30 years, our school district has partnered with the four districts in York County and Winthrop University to offer middle school students a program to help develop their talents in music, visual arts, dance, & drama*
- *This has consisted of three Saturday workshops and three weeks in the summer with students bussed to and from Winthrop*
- *Last year, with COVID, this program was cancelled by Winthrop*

- For the first part of school this year the program was in limbo
- The LCSD sought an alternative and decided to partner with the **Lancaster County Council for the Arts** to create our own virtual arts program
- Information went out to parents and students about the new program in September
- Referrals were received through October 12th & auditions were held last Saturday, November 14
- Our ***Discovery SM-ARTS Program*** will begin in late January and will operate for 12 Saturday mornings, culminating in a week-long summer session June 21-25

LCSD Gifted & Talented Program *Accolades*

- *Program staff are frequent presenters at the state G/T Conference*
 - *Among the first in the nation to pilot the William & Mary ELA curriculum*
 - *Presented at the National Networking Conference at the College of William & Mary*
 - *Represented on the Board of Directors for the SCCGE for over 20 years*
 - *Provide regional leadership for 10 districts in Region 7*
 - *Former VP & President of the SCCGE*
 - *Featured on SC-ETV as an exemplary G/T Program*
 - *National NAGC conference site-location for Brain Boosters Program*
 - *Among the first in the state to pilot the M3 math curriculum*
 - *Routinely offer G/T endorsement courses for Lancaster and regional teachers*
 - *Presented at Lander College to pre-service teachers on G/T*
- 
- A night sky with a full moon, stars, and a silhouette of a dog looking up.

LCSD Gifted & Talented Program *Parent Quote*

“In years past, students met with their G/T class once a week for special programming that challenged, enriched, and accelerated. It was extremely hands-on and team-based.”

This year, because of COVID, students are using *Thrively*. Some positives include the following:

- “Learn + Apply method of learning
- Creative thinking is used ... a lot
- Students see and build off their interests and see future
- Videos are so well done that students rewatch and share
- Option to use voice recording or video recording for younger students who tire of typing
- Inspiring, feel-good stories
- Challenging with a different kind of learning than regular classes
- Reward system”

Julie Graham, parent and teacher

LCSD Gifted & Talented Program

Questions?

