

ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Talented and Gifted Specialist

Reports to: Director of Resource Services

Part or Full Time (Status Dependent on Teaching Hours) | 10-month | Exempt

St. George's Episcopal School is a coeducational, independent school serving approximately 400 students from Nursery through eighth grade in a family-like atmosphere with a highly trained and dedicated faculty. Educational excellence at St. George's begins with the premise that everyone learns differently. Our version of personalized learning, our nurturing environment and our low student-to-teacher ratios ensure that we challenge and support every child. This is why our graduates develop into lifelong learners and consequently find acceptance and success in the finest high schools in New Orleans. Learn more at www.stgnola.org.

Position Summary:

St. George's seeks an experienced specialist to spearhead key priorities for the school's talented and gifted program related to gaining a better understanding of St. George's high-ability student population. This individual should be well versed in interpreting private and public psychoeducational evaluations and will ideally have or be working towards a Louisiana Academically Gifted add-on endorsement and master's degree. The Specialist will report to the Director of Resource Services and also work with the Directors of Lower and Middle School to continue existing enrichment programming. This position has the potential to become full-time with teaching and coaching responsibilities.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

Student Identification

- Review students' digital files to locate and review existing evaluations or documentation relevant to high ability.
- Consult with the Resource Services team to identify twice-exceptional students and the Admissions team to identify incoming students with an existing evaluation or parent-communicated indication of high ability.
- Review records of students without an existing evaluation to look for indicators of possible high ability and, after consulting with the Director of Resource Services, communicate with parents to recommend screening.
- Attend grade-level meetings as needed for a fuller understanding of students' profiles.
- Receive new evaluations or screenings for highly able students and upload them to the relevant digital file; interpret results and disseminate important content to the student's Success Team.
- Develop a reporting template for effective and efficient dissemination to administrators and faculty of student-specific information gleaned through the process.
- With the Director of Resource Services, create a robust list of recommended evaluators for families to support the school's recommendation for evaluation and investigate potential psychologist partnerships for psychoeducational evaluations or other screenings with St. George's.
- Be the point person for conversations related to full-grade acceleration, utilizing an instrument (*Iowa Scales for Acceleration*) to help guide decision-making for grade skipping.
- Serve as the school's point person for Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB) gifted testing for students matriculating into Orleans Parish high schools (e.g. Ben Franklin and Willow); communicate early with Middle School parents to provide ample time and support for the OPSB testing process.
- Advocate for subject- or grade-acceleration, small-group differentiation and/or other programming for identified high-ability students; consult Division Directors and Department Chairs as needed.
- Maintain strict confidentiality, especially in the context of student evaluations and digital files.

Research and Reintroduction of Aptitude or Ability Screening

- Conduct thorough research of available screening instruments with the intention of reintroducing periodic screening for all St. George's students.
- Prioritize the school's population of Resource Services students and JEDI goals (Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) in the research and selection process.
- Determine age levels for implementation of the selected screening instrument in order to best provide Success Teams, Division Directors and Department Chairs with the information needed to make informed decisions regarding student placement in reading/ELA and math small groups.
- Consult with the Admissions Team for implementation of the instrument at the time of admission (when entering a grade level applicable to the school's testing timeline).

Enrichment Coordination

- Plan Lower School's enrichment clusters (SPARK) with the Director of Lower School, mixing students across grade level by interest and ensuring that clusters are student-led.
- Work with the Director of Middle School to continue interest-based enrichment for Middle School via Round Tables; over time and as scheduling allows, endeavor to expand this enrichment programming.
- Coordinate accelerated enrichment (TAG) course offerings and staffing, working with the Director of Lower School to determine the least disruptive pull times for students; teach one or two classes as needed due to staffing and scheduling constraints.
- Oversee St. George's participation in the New Orleans Academic Games League (NOAGL), attending city-wide meetings and communicating with NOAGL leaders as St. George's representative, hiring coaches for each game and attending practices and tournaments periodically to support the teams, and teaching games as needed.
- Ensure that St. George's enrichment and advanced-level groupings remain research-based, transparent in programming options and selection processes and inclusive of high-ability learners, especially underachieving, twice-exceptional and diverse students; share articles and newsletters with faculty and administrators.

Miscellaneous

- Deliver and make recommendations for faculty professional development related to high-ability students and differentiation and, with relevant Directors, investigate a plan for regular completion of professional development for all advanced-level reading/ELA and math teachers.
- Liaise with Project Approach leaders on campus and contribute to discussions and planning for expansion of project-based learning into Lower and Middle School to meet the needs of high-ability students.
- As needed, support inter-division vertical alignment of curriculum for high-ability students.
- Complete other tasks as assigned by the Director of Resource Services.

Qualifications:

- Master's degree in a field related to education or psychology preferred.
- Louisiana Academically Gifted add-on preferred; strong understanding of talented and gifted research required.
- 3+ years of experience working with gifted and talented students in various grades and/or administering evaluations preferred; experience reading and interpreting evaluations required.
- Outstanding organizational and time management skills and independence in completing assigned tasks.
- Exceptional oral and written communication skills for communicating with parents, administrators and faculty.
- Proficiency in Google Workspace applications including Gmail, Calendar and Drive (Docs, Sheets and Slides).
- Ability to use safety/communication applications on a chromebook, iPad and/or a smartphone.
- Familiarity with using copiers, printers, document cameras, and presentation screens.
- A desire to respond to and initiate the solving of problems through clear and open conversation.
- Openness to feedback and ability to take risks.

St. George's Episcopal School as an Equal Opportunity Employer

St. George's aims to employ a collaborative, creative, joyful and diverse faculty and staff. We hire without consideration to race, religion, creed, color, national origin, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, veteran status, disability or any other category protected by applicable law. We are committed to an inclusive school culture and to recruiting and hiring faculty of diverse backgrounds and experience.

Interested candidates should send a letter of interest and resumé to the Director of Resource Services, Mrs. Corrina Spedale, at corrina.spedale@stgnola.org and to St. George's Human Resources office at hr@stgnola.org.