

GPS Elementary Schools Comparison

With all of the options in Gilbert's Gifted Programs, the Gifted Education Parent Council has put together this flyer to help you make the best decision for your family. Information on the different programs in Gilbert is offered, along with a conversational model to have with your child to help in your decision making process. Please use whatever sections you feel are relevant to your situation.

Conversation Tips:

First, create a mental or paper/pencil inventory of your child's strengths and challenges (for your own information only) to help anticipate questions/areas of concern your child may have. You can use the Gifted Inventory at the following link as a tool for this exercise: [Gifted Inventory for Parents/Teachers \(pdf\)](#)

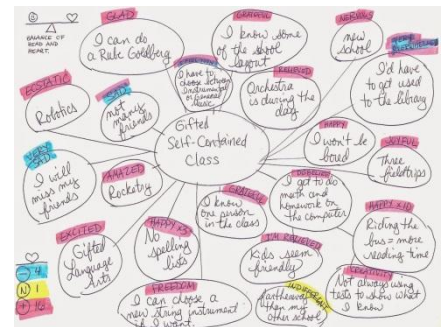
Next, have a neutral conversation to see how your child feels about the changes and what he or she knows about them. Try to ask open-ended questions without expressing your own opinion. Cookies and milk can encourage this conversation sometimes. 😊

Third, create a Pro/Con list with your child, as appropriate, preferably limited to 3 or fewer school choices.

Areas to consider:

- Siblings – what the best fit is for all children in your family (note: keep in mind that not ALL children must attend the same school)
- Distance/Transportation – adapting to the required transportation methods
- Social – changes to your child's friendships and the effect on his or her school experience
- Staffing – who the child's teacher and principal will be
- After-School Clubs – addition or loss of access to programs that your child is interested in
- Other programs on each campus -- availability of programs that your family needs (special needs resources, VIK)
- Jr High/High School tracking – junior high or high school enrollment differences based on school location

Fourth, turn the lists associated with the choices into bubble maps and attach a feeling to each item. Use the feelings sheet on the back of this sheet to help your child articulate their emotions. Then color code the feelings as positive or negative. For each positive or negative feeling, answer the question: Is it temporary or permanent? (i.e. The regional school has a STEM club weekend trip. This makes me feel excited (positive) because I love science - permanent.)



Before finalizing the decision, allow your family to think about it for a day or two.

Finally, when you have decided, take time to look backward and forward. Remember and memorialize the best of what you've experienced and encourage your child to keep ties with people who have had an impact on him or her. Talk about what excites your child about your choice and what ways you can work with the school to make your child's education fulfilling in the future.

Remember that you can also tour your school choices by calling the principal to set up a time and, if your campus has a representative on the Gifted Education Parent Council, he or she is a good resource as well. A list of representatives and contact information can be found on the GEPC area of the district website. <https://www.gilbertschools.net/Page/797>

Area of Consideration	Home Campus	Neely Traditional Academy	Towne Meadows Self-Contained Gifted (SCG) Program	Spectrum and Canyon Rim
Does the entire campus follow the same format?	Yes	Yes, the whole school follows a traditional model with the entire day devoted to instructional time, except for special area instruction..	The Self-Contained classrooms follow a different curriculum from the rest of the school. The whole school does specials and field trips together.	No, Traditional classrooms have Spalding added to their ELA curriculum and Saxon Math replaces the use of HMH Math Expressions (Harcourt). Conventional classrooms have more flexibility in their daily schedule.
Is an application process required?	No	Yes, with a lottery if needed	Yes, with a lottery if needed	No
What classes are offered for gifted students?	Cluster model for Grades K-3, grades 4-5 pull-out math instruction 1 year ahead. 6th grade ELA pullout	Advanced Math 3-6 Advanced ELA 4-6 Advanced Sci/SS 5-6 Depending on class size, Advanced Math may be offered in 1st-2nd	4-6th grade self-contained program Offers Math up to 8th grade	Qualified gifted students are pulled out by the on-site gifted/ALP teacher in 6th grade for both math and ELA, to receive instruction in those subjects. Qualified gifted students in all other grade levels can receive one year ahead math instruction. Gifted students are also provided enrichment opportunities in the regular classroom in other subject areas.
Location?	varies	Neely Elementary 500 E. Houston Ave. Gilbert, AZ 85234	Towne Meadows Elementary School 1101 N. Recker Rd., Gilbert, AZ 85234	Spectrum Elementary: 2846 Spectrum Way, Gilbert, AZ 85295 Canyon Rim Elementary: 3045 S Canyon Rim, Mesa, AZ 85212
Entrance Requirements?	None	None	Two scores of 97 or above and one score of 85 or above on the CoGAT or IQ of 130+	None
Are advanced classes exclusive to gifted-identified students?	Yes	Yes, although all students are expected to work 1 year ahead of district standards. Advanced classes are accelerated 2 years.	Yes	Yes and No. All students in the Traditional program work one year ahead in math. Only sixth grade gifted students work two years ahead in math (Saxon) and receive instruction using the Springboard curriculum.

Curriculum		Spalding, Saxon Math, ReadyGen, Literature Studies, and Springboard (Advanced 6th) ELA	Harcourt Math, Glencoe Math, Michael Clay Thompson (grammar), College of William & Mary (ELA) Summit	Conventional: Ready Gen, HMH Math Expressions (Harcourt)
Gifted endorsement required for teachers?	Yes for the gifted Teacher	Yes, for Advanced classes	Yes	Yes, the on-site gifted teacher is required to be gifted endorsed.
Are the Advanced classes cross-curricular (teachers collaborate on lessons and assignments across subject areas)?	No	Yes, 5th and 6th	Yes	No.
Are the staff who work with gifted students trained in the social/emotional needs of gifted students?		Yes	Yes	Varies. The on-site gifted/ALP teacher is trained in meeting the social/emotional needs of gifted students, and is available to assist other staff members in doing so as well. Other staff working with gifted students may or may not have training in meeting gifted students' social/emotional needs.
Is there 2e/ special education support on campus?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Daily homework	Yes, varies by class and grade	Yes, Spalding and Math, some projects	Projects, math and unfinished classwork	Conventional: Yes, Math and some projects Traditional: Yes, Math, Spalding, ELA, and some projects ALP: Yes, Math, ELA, and some projects
What is the class size?	depends on the campus	13-33 depending on subject and grade level, 25-30 in general classrooms	Class size is capped at 25 students	14-29 depending on grade level, subject, format (traditional or conventional)
Is there an open house for incoming students?	no, but individual tours are available	No, but individual tours are offered	Yes	No, but individual tours are available
School Population	varies by campus	688	706	588/776
Are after school clubs offered?	yes	Yes	Yes	Yes