



Onslow County Schools

# AIG Focus

**Monthly Goal: Student seeks out opportunities to learn new things.**

## How to Engage My Gifted Child During the Summer?

Summer is a great time for students to seek out opportunities to learn new things! With its leisurely stretches of unstructured time, it may be an ideal season for your gifted child to learn and grow outside of an academic setting. Gifted learners tend to have an intense need for intellectual stimulation, parents can help using the following suggestions:

- **Provide Cultural and Learning Experiences:** Take advantage of nearby institutions such as museums, theaters, science centers, and planetariums to ensure that your child enjoys a wide variety of cultural and learning experiences. Consider planning day trips or vacations to new places.
- **Work on a Summer Project:** Your gifted child may have his or her own ideas for a personal project, and summer could be the perfect time to make it happen. Writing a novella, animating a short film, or designing and building a simple

robot are all feasible projects for the summer months.

- **Consider a Special-Interest Summer Camp:** The benefits of a specialized summer camp can be two-fold. First of all, these camps allow your child to explore a favorite subject in-depth and gain some hands-on experience learning and creating. Secondly, your child will have the opportunity to communicate with peers who share a similar enthusiasm for a particular topic.
- **Offer Home-Improvement Opportunities:** The National Association for Gifted Children recommends involving your child in household activities as a way to get him or her thinking beyond the boundaries of the classroom. These endeavors might include cooking, landscaping, and room redesign.

To read more, check out "[4 Ways Parents Can Engage Gifted Students During Summer Vacation](#)" by Michelle Baumgartner.

### Director's Discussion:

When we think about learning, what do you think of as the best way to use the summer months? This is one that, as a parent and an educator, I have always had mixed feelings. So, when I am not sure I try to make sure I am seeing things through the eyes of the child (with my perspective as an adult). Mentally, our kids often need time to unwind, play, read for pleasure, plug in, unplug, be outside, rest, and so many other things. Each child's set of opportunities and wishes is different. So, I encourage us (as the adults) to ask our kids what it is they want to accomplish this summer. If it feels like too much, then we find ways to help them pull back and relax. If it feels like too little, then we need to push them a little.

There are plenty of structured opportunities out there, but often the best learning happens when we allow kids to have experiences they have to construct. I was taught early on by the one and only Phyllis Vinters at Parkwood Elementary, "If you're bored, then your boring." So, let us continue her mantra and make sure our kids learn and grow while also getting the time to unwind.

Dr. Michael Elder, Director,  
College and Career Readiness

## A note from your specialist...

Here is a snapshot of what we have been doing in AIG pullout groups.

**4th Grade Reading:** Students practiced using key words when searching the Internet using April Trivia. Then we started our Passion Projects. Students will research a topic of interest to them and create a product to share their newly learned information with others.

**4th Grade Math:** Students used various skills using percents and money to solve an Escape Room. They then worked on Steve Wyborne's Colored tiles to work on area of irregular shapes.

**5th Grade Reading:** Students practiced using key words when searching the Internet using April Trivia. Then we started our Passion Projects. Students will research a topic of interest to them and create a product to share their newly learned information with others.

**5th Grade Math:** Students continue learning to use their math mind. They are thinking about math in different ways to solve problems more efficiently.

**4th/5th Grade IG:** Students are working on being creative, working with peers, and building in a group. These are very important real-life skills that many of these kiddos will see over and over again!

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