



2026



SUMMER EXPLORATION PROGRAM



| For rising 7th and 8th graders only |

JULY 6, 2026, THROUGH JULY 30, 2026  www.gcit.org

Welcome to GCIT Summer Exploration Program

GCIT Summer Exploration Program is for Rising 7th and 8th graders for September 2026. That means only students who will be in 7th or 8th grade in September 2026 are able to attend the GCIT Summer Exploration Program.

Summer Exploration will be offered the following sessions

Weeks	AM Session	PM Session
July 6, 2026 to July 9, 2026	9:00AM to 11:30AM	12:00PM to 2:30PM
July 13, 2026 to July 16, 2026	9:00AM to 11:30AM	12:00PM to 2:30PM
July 20, 2026 to July 23, 2026	9:00AM to 11:30AM	12:00PM to 2:30PM
July 27, 2026 to July 30, 2026	9:00AM to 11:30AM	12:00PM to 2:30PM

Each Summer Exploration session is \$249.00

Please be aware, online payments are charged a 4.95% service charge fee.

Students may sign up for AM or PM sessions, or BOTH! Students will be given a 30-minute lunch break in between sessions if they wish to attend all day. Attend as many weeks as you wish. Customize GCIT's Summer Exploration Program to whatever you want!!!

Most Summer Exploration programs offer the same curriculum each week; however, a few vary week to week, please be sure to read the camp description.

Parents will be required to drop off and pick up their child at the 400-Wing Main entrance no later than 10 minutes prior to the start of each session. Individuals picking up students at the end of Summer Exploration are REQUIRED to show proper ID at pick up time. Once a parent/guardian completes the registration and pays the tuition, they will receive an email with a follow up questionnaire to complete. It is necessary to complete the questionnaire in full, or your child will not be eligible to attend GCIT Summer Exploration.

**To register for GCIT Summer Exploration,
please go to:**

www.gcit.org/summereexploration

**Questions - please email:
admissions@gcecnj.org**

ART - [Click Here to Register for Art](#)

Create Your Own Board Game – Ms. Robyn Megara

Do you love art, storytelling, and a little friendly competition? In this hands-on summer camp, students will design and build their very own original board game from start to finish! Campers will brainstorm a theme, design a game board, create action cards, write clear rules, and bring their ideas to life with color and creativity.

By the end of the week, each student will leave with a fully playable, neatly designed board game they can take home and share with family and friends. Along the way, campers will learn how to turn a simple idea into a finished product through imagination, problem-solving, and creative design.

Perfect for students who enjoy drawing, inventing, and thinking outside the box!

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July 6, 2026 to July 9, 2026	12:00PM to 2:30PM
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July 27, 2026 to July 30, 2026	12:00PM to 2:30PM

AUTOMOTIVE - [Click Here to Register for Automotive](#)

Painting it Perfect – Mr. Franklin Black

Hey there, future car painters of Gloucester County! Have you ever wondered how those shiny, colorful cars you see on the road get their amazing look? Painting cars is like creating a masterpiece on wheels. It starts with preparing the car's surface, making sure it's smooth and clean. Then, you get to choose the perfect color and apply it carefully, layer by layer. It's not just about making the car look cool; it's also about protecting it from rust and damage. Imagine turning a plain car into a stunning work of art that everyone admires. With the right skills and creativity, you can make any car look fantastic! Ready to learn more and maybe even try it out someday?

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BAKING & PASTRY ARTS –

[Click Here to Register for Next Level Baking](#)

Next Level Baking – Ms. Kaitlyn Johnson

This is NOT your average after-school snack.

Think you've seen cool recipes online? Now it's your turn to *make them for real*. In this high energy baking class, we're diving into the world of viral recipes. Giant cookies, over-the-top cupcakes, and insane dough creations — we're making it all, and making it *better*. You'll get hands-on in the kitchen, leveling up your skills with recipes that look awesome and taste even better. Plus, you'll score your own *Recipe Packet* filled with every creation we tackle, so you can flex your baking skills anytime, anywhere. Bring your best energy, your creative side, and get ready to bake like a boss. *Each week will feature new recipes!* ***All campers must wear sneakers and let us know of any food allergies***

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BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE –

Biodiversity Discovery– Dr. Robert Anderson

[Click Here to Register for Biodiversity Discovery](#)

Explore Your World. Leave Your Mark - What if this summer you became a real field scientist? At Biodiversity Discovery Exploration, students will explore our school's 8-acre wooded campus to discover and document as many living species as possible. Using the scientific platform **iNaturalist**, students will photograph plants, insects, fungi, birds, and other organisms and upload their findings to a global database used by researchers around the world. But we won't stop there. Student photographs will become part of a permanent **"Tree of Life" mural** installed in our school hallway. The mural will be arranged in true taxonomic order — from the simplest life forms to complex organisms — showing how all living things are connected. Each accepted photo will include student credit, giving campers a visible and lasting contribution to our school community. This summer exploration program blends outdoor adventure, hands-on biology, photography, ecology, and creative design. Students will learn how scientists classify organisms (domain to species), sharpen observation skills, and develop a deeper appreciation for the biodiversity right outside our doors.

No prior experience is necessary — just curiosity and a willingness to explore. By the end of the week, students won't just understand the Tree of Life, they will have helped build it.

Space is limited to ensure meaningful field time and individual participation.

Come explore, discover, contribute, and leave your mark on something that lasts.

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Biotechnology – Dr. Jeffrey Thomas –

[Click Here to Register for Biotechnology](#)

Do you ever wonder about the foods you eat and what's in them? Want to learn more about the biological make up of your body and your DNA? Come learn what scientists and doctors' study in Biotechnology exploration! In Biotechnology exploration, students learn more about medical sciences by conducting hands-on experiments to determine if certain foods are genetically modified. Come learn, analyze, and study your own DNA!

Weeks	AM Session
July 20, 2026 to July 23, 2026	9:00AM to 11:30AM
July 27, 2026 to July 30, 2026	9:00AM to 11:30AM

Microbiology Masterpieces – Mrs. Summer Smith –

[Click Here to Register for Microbiology Masterpiece](#)

Participants will explore the hidden beauty of bacteria by creating living artworks using colorful microbial cultures. Along the way, they will learn essential microbiology lab techniques, including how to safely culture, handle, and observe bacteria. Students will also gain a deeper understanding of bacterial diversity, growth patterns, how antibiotics work, and the helpful roles of microbes in our world. By blending art and science, this experience highlights the creativity within biology and fosters a greater appreciation for the microscopic life that surrounds us.

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Transplant Team – Mrs. Summer Smith –

[Click Here to Register for Transplant Team](#)

Get ready to step into the world of medicine at our hands-on Surgery & Transplant Summer Exploration! Stepping into the roles of a transplant team, students will perform medical laboratory testing, perfect their laparoscopic surgery techniques, and even learn how to suture like real surgeons. Explore the science behind organ transplants while discovering exciting careers in healthcare. If you're curious about how healthcare teams save lives, this Summer Exploration is for you!

Weeks	AM Session	PM Session
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COMPUTER SCIENCE –

[Click Here to Register for Computer Science](#)

Computer Science - Artificial Intelligence – Mr. Drew Favat

Empower your future with our engaging computer science workshops designed for middle school students entering high school! Dive into the world of coding, robotics, and digital creativity through hands-on activities and collaborative projects. These workshops will not only enhance your technical skills but also foster critical thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork. Join us to explore the exciting possibilities of computer science and prepare for a successful high school journey!

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CONSTRUCTION TRADES

Circuit Club - Mr. John Takach –

[Click Here to Register Circuit Club](#)

Where curiosity completes the circuit! Get ready to spark curiosity and power up young minds! This hands-on program introduces 7th and 8th grade students to the exciting world of electricity through engaging, age-appropriate exploration and interactive projects. From learning how circuits work to building simple electrical devices, students will dive into real-world applications of electrical concepts in a fun and supportive environment. Whether it's lighting up an LED or wiring their first switch, every activity is designed to ignite creativity, build confidence, and lay the foundation for future Electrical and Electronics Technology learning.

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Cool Futures - Mr. Robert Crowley - [Click Here to Register for Cool Futures](#)

Join us for an exciting Summer HVAC Exploration designed especially for curious 7th and 8th-grade students! This hands-on camp introduces young minds to the world of Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning through fun, interactive activities and real-world challenges. Students will explore how HVAC systems work, learn basic tools and safety skills, and even get to build simple projects. With a mix of teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving, students will gain valuable insights into a high-demand trade while having a blast. It's the perfect blend of education and summer fun—no experience needed!

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Junior Plumbers – Mr. Ryan Hoolahan –

[Click Here to Register for Junior Plumbers](#)

Did you know plumbing is so much more than just toilets! Come to Junior plumbing exploration and learn everything that a plumber can do. Fun hands-on projects such as DIY sprinkler systems, fixing leaks, water obstacle course challenges, mini sink drain systems and yes.... even learn all about how toilets work! Plumbers have so many opportunities to fix many things, come learn how!

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Nailed It – Mr. Stephen White - [Click Here to Register for Nailed It](#)

Get ready for an awesome summer at our Carpentry Summer Exploration, designed just for 7th and 8th graders! This hands-on program is all about learning real carpentry skills while having fun and building cool projects which you can take home. You'll get to use real tools, work with wood, and see how things are built from the ground up. Along the way, you'll learn about the carpentry trade, related tools and materials, and build your confidence with every project. Whether you're already into building or just want to try something new, this camp is a great way to explore carpentry in a fun and safe environment. Don't miss your chance to build something great!

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Spark it Up! - Welding – Mr. Dan Roskiewich –

[Click Here to Register for Spark it Up!](#)

Come explore the world of welding!

Through summer Welding Exploration, students gain hands-on experience, build confidence, and develop problem-solving, creativity, and technical skills—all while discovering a potential career path. Learn to use real world welding equipment and create exciting, cool projects!

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COSMETOLOGY - [Click Here to Register for Cosmetology](#)

Cosmetology Beauty Exploration – Mr. Albert Riley & Mrs. Ginger Dykas

Are you obsessed with the latest trends in Hair, Skin, and Nails that you see on TikTok and YouTube?

Get ready to learn modern beauty tips and tricks in our salon classroom. Campers will learn braiding, blow-drying techniques, creative hairstyling, formal hairstyling, hair tinsel, extensions and much more. Manikins, tools, and equipment will be supplied to transform manikins into runway styles. Come explore the skin care industry with facial techniques, makeup application, and eyebrow grooming that will leave you glowing from ear to ear. Learn about skin care product knowledge and the importance of nutrition for the health of your hair, skin, and nails. Campers will learn how to complete a basic manicure and pedicure, nail art, and enjoy a spa day with a hot paraffin treatment. Come out and enjoy the fun while exploring the vibrant world of Cosmetology!

Topics covered each week – Sign up for them all!

Week of July 6 – Braiding & Blow Dry

Week of July 13 – Curling & Formal Styling

Week of July 20 – Skin Care

Week of July 27 – Everything Nails

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CREATIVE WRITING

Mystery Writing and Investigation – Mr. David Michalski –

[Click Here to Register for Mystery Writing & Investigation](#)

Step into a classroom that feels more like a writers' room meets detective bureau than traditional English class! In our Mystery Writing and Investigation, students unpack an original case, The Night of the Floodlights, through "case file" releases, evidence artifacts, and collaborative inquiry. Along the way, students will sharpen essential ELA skills like close reading, inference, critical thinking, and evidence-based writing in a way that is fun, fast-paced, and highly engaging. Students build theories, analyze character motives and reliability, write witness statements, and ultimately present their case on "Trial Day," developing confidence in speaking, reasoning, and persuasive communication. The result is an elective-style experience that boosts literacy, creativity, and real-world thinking, while students leave proud of the work they created and the mystery they solved.

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The Writers Quest– Mr. Michael Morris –

[Click Here to Register for The Writer's Quest](#)

An Exploration in Imagination and Ink - Embark on your own creative writing journey this summer, and create the character, storyline, or world of your imagination! This summer course will give you the opportunity to engage in literary analysis and creative writing, two critical skills for future academics and writers alike. By examining **how** authors make the creative choices that they make, you will take the first steps in your literary adventure. By modeling and reflecting on the choices of these authors, you will develop your own narrative voice and craft worlds and storylines of your own! Through engaging writing prompts, creative exercises, and collaborative storytelling, you will learn to build characters, craft settings, and write stories that come to life on the page – all in a supportive environment! No experience necessary, just imagination and a willingness to explore!

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CULINARY ARTS - [Click Here to Register for Culinary Arts](#)

Chef 101 – Mrs. Katelyn Viscusi-Trotter

Chef 101 focuses on young teens' potential future in the culinary arts. Students will spend time learning to prepare restaurant style entrees, desserts and confections that meet established culinary standards. Students will work in a commercial kitchen with chef demonstrations while learning to create their own menus with creative spices and ingredients from around the world! *****All students must wear sneakers and let us know of any food allergies*****

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DANCE

Dance Technique Summer Immersion – Mrs. Marissa Stahl –

[Click Here to Register for Dance Technique Summer Immersion](#)

Join us for a high energy, technique-focused summer immersion that will help you take your skills to the next level! The week will focus on further developing your dance technique, sharpen your performance skills, and dive into the world of improvisation. Whether you are aiming to strengthen your technical foundation or explore new styles, this is perfect chance to challenge yourself and explore new ideas.

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So, You Think You Can Choreograph? – Mrs. Marissa Stahl –

[Click Here to Register for So, you think you can Choreograph?](#)

This isn't your average dance intensive! Throughout the week, you will explore basic tools and concepts in dance composition-YOU become the choreographer! During the week you will explore how to craft your own dances, tell stories through movement, and collaborate with other dancers in a supportive and engaging environment

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DIGITAL MEDIA

Digital Art & Design – Mr. Carl Heil –

[Click Here to Register for Digital Arts & Design](#)

Bring your ideas to life! Dive into the world of digital art and design with the Adobe Creative Suite! In this summer exploration, you'll explore fun and creative projects using Photoshop and Illustrator. Learn how to transform your ideas into stunning digital art and discover the skills to turn your imagination into reality!

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Lights, Camera, Create! - Ms. Lisa Vasapollo –

[Click Here to Register for Lights, Camera, Create!](#)

Step behind the camera and learn how videos are made! In this summer exploration, you'll plan, film, and edit your own short video using real video production equipment. Work with a team to create fun projects like a mini-movie or commercials. Learn cool camera tricks, basic editing, and storytelling skills while bringing your ideas to life on screen!

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DRAMA - [Click Here to Register for Drama](#)

Spotlight on Drama – Mrs. Kirsten Lynch-Walsh

Want to be vibrant, gain confidence, and learn to think outside the box? Here at GCIT's summer spotlight camp we will learn how to make stories and characters spring to life. With improvisation, scene writing and a splash of musical theatre, it's your turn to be *one singular sensation* and create fun *memories*. So, take your place center stage and sign up today.

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FINANCE

Money Talks – Mrs. Elena Sima - [Click Here to Register for Money Talks](#)

So, you think you know money? Want to learn how you manage your money once you become successful at your chosen career? Join us for a fun and exciting summer exploration that will cover financial basics life skills such budgeting, banking, and credit cards, along with online safety and your digital footprint.

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Goldfish Fishbowl - Shark Tank for Kids – Mrs. Donna Rideout – [Click Here to Register for Shark Tank for Kids](#)

The Fishbowl is for young entrepreneurs who design, brand and pitch their own unique toy subscription box ideas. Just like Shark Tank, they'll present their product to a panel of investors, and the panel will choose the winners.

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HEALTH SCIENCE - [Click Here to Register for Health Science](#)

Young Innovators in Health Science – Mrs. Kelly Boskey & Mrs. Rebecca Melniczuk

Have you always been interested in the medical field? Do you want to work in a hospital or doctor's office? Do you wonder how the body works? How can I become a doctor? What do Physical Therapists do? How do germs spread? Do I have to go to medical school to work in the healthcare field? Then the Young Innovators in Health Science Summer Exploration is for YOU!!! In this program you will be introduced to many topics including steps to becoming a healthcare worker, career options, teamwork in healthcare, and holistic health and wellness. You will also learn general topics about your body and how it functions, germs and how they are spread, and nutrition. There will be lots of hands-on activities, teamwork games, and learning.

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LEADERSHIP - [Click Here to Register for Learning to Lead](#)

Learning to Lead – Mr. David White

Attendees of the Learning to Lead Program will learn the hands-on practices necessary to lead in college, civic, and career life. This isn't the typical "civics" class where you learn the 3 branches of government or how a bill becomes a law. Activities will be interactive and engaging, designed to equip you with skills and abilities you won't get in the typical classroom. From no-fear public speaking, to learning teamwork in order to problem-solve and create solutions, you will emerge head-and-shoulders above other students your age in order to become a leader in your community and classroom.

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ROBOTICS - [Click Here to Register for Robotics](#)

Robotics & Programming – Mr. Haase

This summer exploration will give students an introduction into computer programming by developing their own video game. Students will be challenged to explore both their creative and technical sides, learning new skills along the way. These skills will then be used to control robots and equipment in the classroom.

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SPANISH

Passport to the Spanish-Speaking World – Mr. Thomas Hill (Pasaporte al Mundo Hispano) –

[Click Here to Register for Passport to the Spanish-Speaking World](#)

Each day our group explores a new Spanish-speaking country's culture through elements such as language, videos, dance, music, and folklore. Come learn about the unique elements of different Spanish speaking countries, as well as the threads that tie them all together. Open to Spanish language learners and fluent speakers.

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Fiesta de Arte (Spanish Arts & Crafts) – Mr. Thomas Hill –

[Click Here to Register for Fiesta de Arte](#)

Come learn how to make different styles of arts and crafts based on art forms originating from the Spanish speaking world. As campers make projects such as piñata, alebrijes, cerámica, or arte de hilo, we will discuss the cultural significance and the traditions behind them as well as some Spanish vocabulary about art. Open to all art and language skill levels.

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