



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. 😊

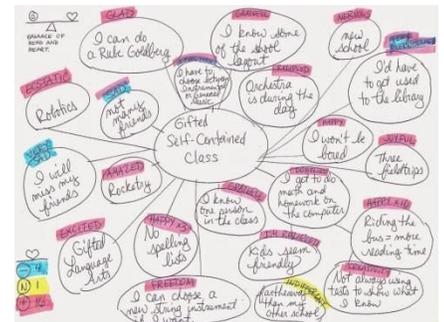
Third, create a Pro/Con list with your child, as appropriate, preferably limited to 3 or fewer school choices.

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
- Start Times – changes to schedules if the times are different
- 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 here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-ZEfq1viUIDpjVUHCiEC5e5dofebgx2f5N7dwgGwE/edit#gid=0>

The Gifted pullout program for 4th – 6th grade students is on 20 elementary campuses, called Regional Sites. The remaining schools are Feeder Schools assigned to a Regional Site. Services at Regional Sites will offer pull out programs for 4th – 6th Math and 6th ELA. You can use the chart below to determine the classification of your neighborhood school.

Gifted Regional Schools

Ashland	Augusta	Boulder Creek	Canyon Rim	Carol Rae
Finely Farms	Greenfield	Highland Park	Meridian	Mesquite
Neely	Oak Tree	Patterson	Pioneer	Playa de Rey
Quartz Hill	Settlers' Point	Sonoma	Spectrum	Superstition Springs

Non Regional	Gifted Regional
Islands	could attend Playa
Gilbert El	could attend Settlers
Val Vista	could attend Sonoma
Towne	could attend SSE
Burk	
Harris	could attend Oak Tree
Houston	

If your family chooses to attend the assigned Gifted Regional School Site:

- This will become your new home school.
- Transportation will be provided. Prior to the start of school, the Gifted Department will notify you of the location of your bus stop.
- Siblings may attend the regional site and ride the bus.

Regional	Non-Regional/Feeder School
K-3 Cluster Model	K-6 Cluster Model
4-5 Math Pull Out	Contact principal to find out more on acceleration and enrichment program availability
4-5 Cluster Model ELA	
6 Math and ELA Pull Out	

If your family chooses not to attend the Gifted Regional School Site:

Feeder Schools will continue to provide gifted services to identified students through the Cluster Model. This is the current service model for all students identified as gifted in K-3, 4th and 5th ELA, and 6th grade non-verbal.

Additional information on the Cluster Model can be found on the [Gilbert Public Schools website](#) as well as by contacting the principal of the school for specific details.

Three additional elementary options exist. Details are listed in the table below.

Area of Consideration	Neely Traditional Academy	Towne Meadows Self-Contained Gifted (SCG) Program	Spectrum and Canyon Rim
Does the entire campus follow the same format?	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 Spaulding 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?	Yes, with a lottery if needed	Yes, with a lottery if needed	No
What classes are offered for gifted students?	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?	321 W Juniper Ave, Gilbert 85233	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	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, 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, Glenco Math, Michael Clay Thompson (grammar), College of William & Mary (ELA) Summit	Conventional: Ready Gen, HMH Math Expressions (Harcourt) Traditional: Ready Gen, Spalding, Saxon Math (advanced one grade level) 6th Grade gifted/ALP: (conventional and traditional combined): Saxon Math (8th grade), Springboard ELA
Gifted endorsement required for teachers?	Yes, for Advanced classes	Yes	Yes, the on-site gifted teacher is required to be gifted endorsed. All teachers, particularly those who are designated "gifted cluster teachers," are encouraged to take

			professional development classes in gifted education and be working towards their gifted endorsement.
Are the Advanced classes cross-curricular (teachers collaborate on lessons and assignments across subject areas)?	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
Daily homework?	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
Are students required to wear uniforms?	No	No	No
What is the class size?	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)
What is the school campus population?	800	700	711
Are after school clubs offered?	Yes	Yes	Yes, various after school clubs are offered, both in-house and out-sourced. Some require some form of payment while others are free. VIK (BPS district-wide before and after school care) is available at Spectrum. Clubs offered in the past include chess, cooking, crafts, tutoring, art, coding, lego, etc.
Is there an open house for incoming students?	No, but individual tours are offered	Yes	No, but individual tours are available
Extra curricular sports offered?	Through Global Academy	Yes	Yes. Gilbert Youth Sports holds their activities here. Payment is required. Clubs offered in the past include basketball, soccer, golf, etc.
Transportation?	Regional Bus Stops	Regional Bus Stops	No, unless student resides within Spectrum boundaries and would

			normally qualify for transportation services.
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