

Gifted Learning Links Program For Schools



About Gifted LearningLinks

- Grew out of concern for gifted children without access to rigorous courses
- Began with Latin course in 1981-2
- Gradual transition from correspondence to online; now fully online
- Last year: Over 150 course offerings; more than 1500 students enrolled in grades 3-12
- Courses developed and taught by CTD's highly qualified teachers
- Accredited by NCA CASI: as Nonpublic Supplemental School

Schools Choose Gifted Learning Links . . .

Gifted Learner Characteristics and Online Learning

- Cognitive Functioning
 - Above average ability
 - Achievement beyond grade level in subject area
 - Strong need to achieve
 - Strength in planning and communication
- Personal Characteristics
 - Independent thinker
 - Perseverance
 - Love of learning
 - Time management skills
 - Socially mature

Gifted Learner Characteristics and Distance Learning

- Learning Preferences
 - Independent study
 - Self-instructional materials
 - Challenge
 - Fast-paced instruction
- Interests
 - Intensity
 - Wide range
 - School extra-curriculars not interesting

(taken from Rogers, Re-Forming Gifted Education, 2002)

Curriculum

- Accredited and College Board Authorized
- Teacher created curriculum
- Rigorous - designed with gifted students in mind
- Individualized/differentiated instruction
- Pre and post assessments
- Virtual classrooms and web conferencing in real time
- Asynchronous discussions

Technical Support



- **Technology orientation** – mini course and real time session to acquaint students with Gifted LearningLinks, online learning and *Blackboard*
- **For Liaisons** – instructional packet and ongoing communication with staff and CTD instructors
- **Ongoing via phone and email**

New! Web Investigation & Evaluation Modules

- Honors/AP students, CTD instructors and teacher liaisons (if they like) participate in web-based modules building 21st century skills
- Modules feature:
 - Pre and post-tests
 - A series of online activities including units in:
 - Author and publisher identification
 - Dated material and accuracy of evidence
 - Links
 - Bias-objectivity and plagiarism



New! Family Program Grades K-2



- Enriching & engaging activities for families to learn together
- Classes begin four times a year
 - Fall – Secrets from the Kitchen
 - Winter – Away We Go
 - Spring - Sports: It's a Numbers Game
 - Summer – Backyard Explorers
- Guided by a “live” instructor
- Weekly online real-time discussions

Enrichment Courses Grades 3-8

Flexible Cohort Model

- English & Writing, Mathematics, World Languages (Latin & Urdu), Science, Humanities & Social Studies
- 9 weeks in duration; 2-5 hours of study time per week
- Four terms beginning: September 15; January 15; April 1; June 15 (Back by Popular Demand)
- Final evaluation upon successful completion

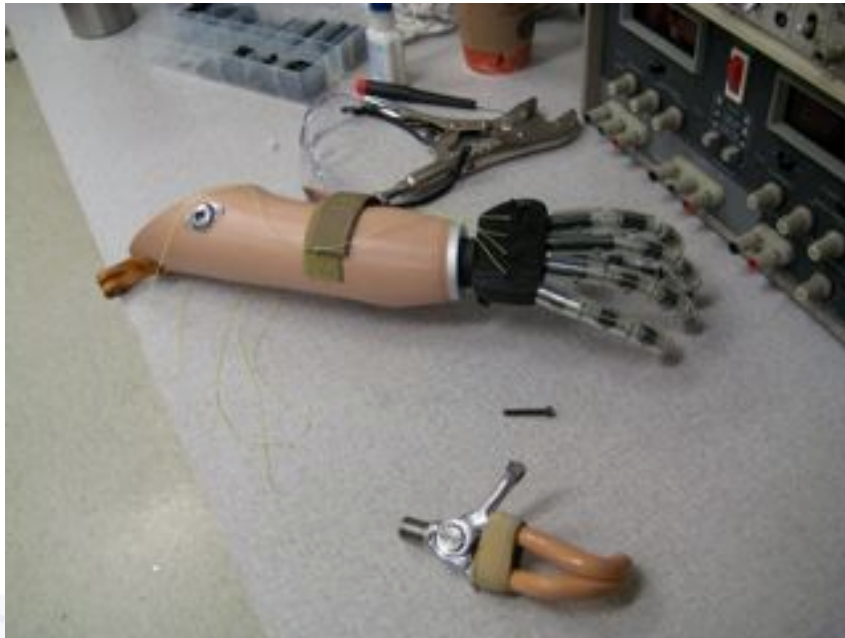
Unique Opportunities

Extracurricular Clubs



- Offered to current CTD students
- Grades 3-8
- Student led and created; CTD teacher facilitated
- 9 weeks in duration

Unique Opportunities



Independent Study

- Grades 3-12
- Follow a passion
- Work with mentor
- Nine weeks
- Non-credit

Honors Electives

Grades 6-12

Facilitated Independent Study

- Elective in nature; unique and challenging
- Bridge between enrichment and longer nine month courses
- Topics in mathematics, English & writing, social science, science and humanities
- 18 weeks; 4-6 hours per week of study time
- One semester high school credit (80-100 course hours)
- Final evaluation and transcript
- Monthly enrollments beginning the 15th of each month
- Registration deadline the 1st of each month

Honors (Grades 6-12)

AP® Courses (Grades 9-12)

Facilitated Independent Study Model

- Core curriculum
- Advanced Placement® authorized by College Board (grades 9-12)
- Up to nine months to complete - may accelerate
- 4-6 hours per week of study time
- Semester I and II grades
- Final evaluation and transcript upon successful completion
- 2 semester hours credit (160-200 course hours)
- Monthly enrollments beginning the 15th of each month
- Registration deadline the 1st of each month

Northwestern University Credit Course

New

- **Climate Catastrophes in Earth History: Earth 105**
- Fall Quarter only
 - September 21
- Taught by Northwestern University faculty
- Facilitated independent study
- Students in grades 10 – 12
- Northwestern University Credit

Summer Accelerated Option

- Honors & some AP®
- 24 offerings in 2010
- 2011 offerings available on the web in March
- 9 weeks in duration
- Starts June 15, ends August 17
- 4-6 hours per day of study time
- Final evaluation and transcript
- 2 semester hours credit



Education Program for Gifted Youth (EPGY)



- Computer based curriculum for grades K-12+
- Language arts and mathematics
- Delivered by Stanford University
- Self-paced
- 3 months in duration (K-12)
- 15 weeks for University Level courses with up to 6 months to complete - Stanford credits issued
- 2-8 hours per week of study time

Instructors



- Highly qualified by NCLB standards
- Content area expertise
- Expertise with gifted students
- Ongoing personalized interaction with students
- Ongoing staff development and assessment
 - Required modules on Gifted, Differentiation & CTD
 - Teacher's Lounge
 - Staff meetings & webinars via Acrobat Connect
 - Web-fluency modules
 - National Standards for Quality Online Teaching, NACOL 2008

Flexibility

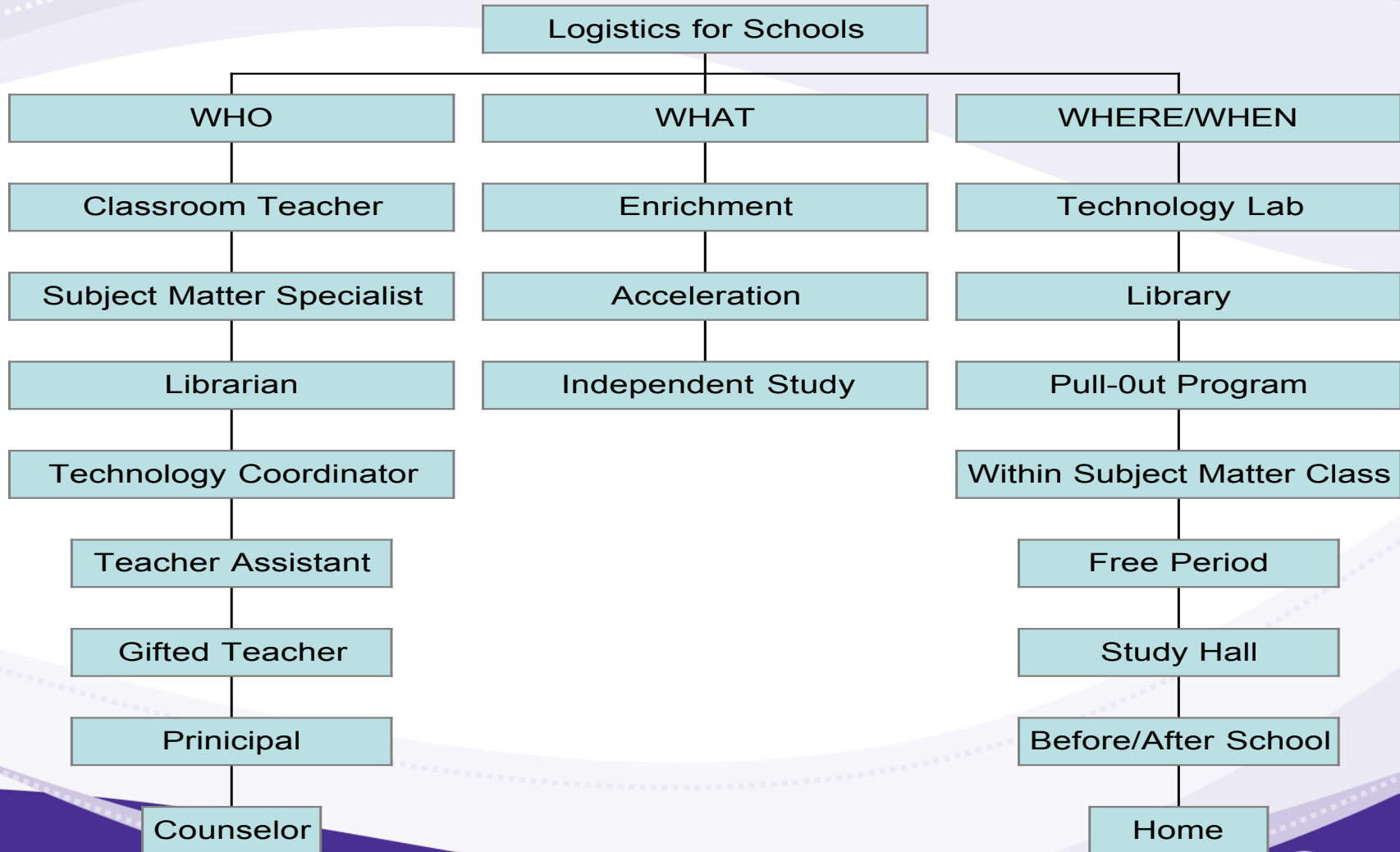


- Self-paced
- Rolling enrollments
- Archived class meetings and discussions
- Work any time, any place
- Course available 24/7

School Partnerships

- Personalized interaction with school liaison
- Course development based on individual school needs
- Will provide one week technology orientation for school liaison/staff
- Looking to pilot blended courses: online in combination with face-to-sessions once or twice a term

Logistics for School Groups



Benefits to Schools

- Provides equal access to high level/quality rigorous courses
- Allows for course variety
- Alleviates scheduling conflicts
- Overcomes challenge of students who have completed available curriculum
- Alleviates teacher shortage
- 10% discount for 5 or more students enrolled

Gifted Students Benefit

- Pursue interests and academic talents
- Rigorous and challenging curriculum
- Interact with like-minded peers from around the world
- Work at their own pace and level
- Develop skills: study, time management and writing
- Ongoing interaction with a live teacher
- Differentiated curriculum to meet individual needs

GLL Current Status

- Available courses:
 - University Credit: 1
 - AP: 19
 - Honors: 42
 - Enrichment: (many of these are serial offerings)
 - EPGY: 13
- Our teachers
 - 45 total
 - 95% highly qualified according to federal guidelines
 - Certified or PhD in area
- Tuition:
 - Honors & AP classes: \$785.00 + \$60.00 application fee
 - Honors Electives: \$515.00 + \$60.00 application fee
 - Enrichment: \$405.00 + \$60.00 application fee
 - Family Program: \$135.00 + \$60.00 application fee
 - Independent study: \$405.00 + \$60.00 application fee
 - Extracurricular clubs: \$35.00 + \$60.00 application fee
 - Books and materials not included



Summary

- GLL can serve your gifted children by offering a variety of courses to meet their needs
- Courses are teacher created
- Courses are taught by “highly qualified” instructors
- Many course options
- We’re always open to suggestions on new course offerings and how we can best help you meet the needs of your students

We look forward to hearing from you!

- Elfi Sanderson: e-sanderson@northwestern.edu
- Cindy Cho: cynthia-cho@northwestern.edu
- Roxanne Greenberger: rgreenberger@northwestern.edu

Visit:

<http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/gll>