

Parents Guide to Enrichment Opportunities for Gifted & Other Ready FCPS Elementary Students Updated: Fall 2022



Discovering, Uncovering, & Growing Gifted & Advanced Learner Potential

STEM Enrichment Opportunities General Enrichment Programs for GT students


Finding opportunities to enrich students - whether they are gifted all around or have an interest and dedication in a specific area -can be daunting. Not because there aren't many opportunities, but because there are so many. But enrichment yields great benefits. According to Rimm "... programs present a delightful benefit: They permit gifted students to meet and work with each other away from the stresses and problems of daily school requirements." (Rimm, 2017).


Additionally, a critical part of developing students with gifts and talents is to support their general background knowledge and experiences.

As important as it is that students have an opportunity to explore areas of their own interest and choosing - it is equally important to not overschedule students. Enrichment should focus on building on their strengths and interest - not seen as an opportunity to shore up perceived weaknesses (Ruf, 2011). It is important to balance supporting their interests, but not pushing them. (Gearey, 2016) While summer can be a great time to allow students to delve deeper into an area of interest that feels fun to them, just be sure to make sure they are ok with how it's going and don't feel overwhelmed or stressed. (Rohan n.d.). Don't forget all the benefits that free play and downtime can offer a student as well. (Shafer 2018).

The following opportunities are curated for your convenience from reliable sources, web searches, and careful cross-referencing program reputation - however, this does not mean the programs are all endorsed or vetted by FCPS. These programs are programs that would meet the needs and interests of elementary students scoring high in the quantitative domain or who seek enrichment in STEM related programs. Emphasis was placed on either local convenience or nationally recognized programs. These offerings do not include enrichment programs that - while being fun and engaging - may not offer the level of rigor appropriate for a highly abled student (such as day camp theme weeks & parks and rec programs).

 = Office of Advanced Academics endorsed - opportunities that are of particular note because of affordability and/or reputation for high quality programming

 = Summer camp only, not a school year program

 = Most programs generally require an adult to remain on-site/participate with child

 = Caters to the needs of GT Students - generally requires an application process with test scores

 = Very low cost or free

Additional Camps for Students with specific interests and/or programs tailored to the needs of GT students:






[Gifted Summer Programs: Listed by Topics of Interest - Davidson Institute](#)





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In Person Enrichment Opportunities


Local In Person Opportunities (within Frederick County) - STEM focused

| Program | Link | Grade availability | Focus | Location | Duration | Cost | Application Process | Notes: |
|--|--|--------------------------------|---|---|---|--|--|---|
|  FCC Kids on Campus | Kids on Campus Classes - Frederick Community College | Pre-K - 5 | Variety of special interest classes, including STEM | FCC Campus | Varies | Vaires | Registration until filled | Various special interest and skills courses for kids |
|  Frederick County Recreator | Frederick County Parks & Recreation | Pre-K - 5 | Variety of special interest classes, including STEM | Various locations throughout the county | Varies | Vaires | Registration until filled | Various special interest and skills courses for kids |
|  FCPL STEM Programs | FCPL STEM Clubs for kids | K-5 | STEM | Library branches throughout the county | Varies: 30min - 2 hrs. | Free or nominal cost | Registration requirements vary by program | Programs utilizing the library's "STEM Lab" |
|  FCPS Earth Space and Science Lab | Earth and Space Science Lab | Pre K - 5 Siblings & Family | Earth & Space Science Focused evening programs and summer camps | 210 N. Madison St. Frederick, MD 21701 | Evening Programs: 45 min Camps: 1 week | Evening Program: \$6.00 per person Summer Camp: TBD | Evening Program: Tickets must be pre-purchased Summer Camp: Registration until filled | Family programs focused on Earth-Space Science topics |
|  Catoclin Mountain National Forest Visitor Center | Programs - Catoclin Mountain Park (U.S. National Park Service) | All ages | Ecology, conservation, and related topics; History | 6602 Foxville Road Thurmont, MD 21788 | Varies | Nominal or Free | None | May require adult supervision |




| Extended Local Area In Person Opportunities (adjacent counties, Washington DC, Baltimore) - STEM focused | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Program | Link | Grade availability | Focus | Location | Duration | Cost | Application Process | Notes |
|  Maryland Science Center - Evening Programs | On-Site Evening Programs Maryland Science Center | All ages | STEM | Maryland Science Center, Baltimore MD | 2hrs or more | \$25-\$50 per person | Registration - no application | Various types of programs for different aged students |
|  National Aquarium - Special Events | Special Events | All ages | Marine biology and ecology | Maryland Science Center, Baltimore MD | 2hrs or more | Varies | Registration - no application | Various types of events for different aged students |
|  Smithsonian Nighttime Adventures | Smithsonian Nighttime Adventures | 8-14 plus parents | Varies | Various Smithsonian Museums | 4 hours | \$70 per person | Tickets purchased in advanced | Requires parent supervision |
|  Gettysburg National Battlefield and Cemetery Visitor's Center | Ranger Programs at Gettysburg - Gettysburg National Military Park (U.S. National Park Service) | All Ages | Focus is history - but does include geology | Gettysburg, PA | Varies | Nominal to free | Some events require pre-registration | History and geology programs led by rangers |

| Regional In Person Opportunities (Mid-Atlantic) - STEM or GT focused | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--------------------|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| Program | Link | Grade availability | Focus | Location | Duration | Cost | Application Process | Notes |
|  College of W&M Saturday and Summer Enrichment | K-12 Learner Programs W&M School of Education | K-12 | Varies - includes STEM options | College of William & Mary Williamsburg, VA | 1 Day Saturday Programs (| \$150 per course for Saturday Program - Lunch Included | Application with test scores required | Tailored to meet needs of IWGT Well known program More affordable Customizable |

Regional In Person Opportunities (Mid-Atlantic) - STEM or GT focused


| Program | Link | Grade availability | Focus | Location | Duration | Cost | Application Process | Notes |
|---|--|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------|---|
|  Center for Gifted Youth - LIU | Center for Gifted Youth Long Island University | K - 9 | Varies - includes STEM | Long Island, NY | 10 Saturdays: 3 hrs. Each day | \$2,200 | Application with test scores required | Saturday enrichment courses for GT students |

Additional Opportunities for Gifted Students (within US) - GT focused

| Program | Link | Grade availability | Focus | Location | Duration | Cost | Application Process | Notes |
|---|--|--------------------|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|
|  GER2I at Purdue University Super Saturday for GT Students | Super Saturday Youth Programs GER2I - Purdue University College of Education | K-12 | Varies - includes STEM options | Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN | 1 Day Saturday Programs | \$60- \$75 per ½ session | Application with test scores required | Tailored to meet needs of IWGT Well known program More affordable Customizable |
|  Institute of Educational Advancement Academy | IEA Academy - Schedule and Details | Ages 5-14 | Math, Science, Humanities | 569 South Marengo Avenue Pasadena, CA 91101 | 5 week sessions - 2 days a week | \$300 per 60 min class \$425 per 90 min class | Application required | Rigorous material tailored to needs of IWGT Does not require formal gifted testing |
|  UC Berkeley Talent Program - Explorations | Elementary Division 2022 UC Berkeley ATDP | K+ | Varies - includes STEM | UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA | 4 days a week for 3 weeks | \$500+ | Application required | Enrichment courses for GT students |

Virtual Learning Opportunities



Virtual Courses and Camps - STEM or GT focused

| Program | Link | Grade availability | Focus | Learning Environment | Duration | Cost | Application Process | Notes |
|---|---|--------------------|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
|  College of W&M Virtual Saturday and Summer Enrichment | K-12 Learner Programs W&M School of Education | K-12 | Varies - includes STEM options | Online /Virtual - Blended Learning - includes Live Instruction | 6 hours: 2 hrs over 3 Saturdays | \$150 per course for Summer Program | Application with test scores required | Tailored to meet needs of IWGT Well known program More affordable Customizable |


Virtual Courses and Camps - STEM or GT focused

| Program | Link | Grade availability | Focus | Learning Environment | Duration | Cost | Application Process | Notes |
|---|--|---|--------------------------------|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|---|
|  Northwestern Center for Talent Development | Online Programs Northwestern Center for Talent Development | Pk - 3 4 - 8 | Varies - includes STEM options | Online /Virtual - Blended Learning - includes Live Instruction | Varies | Range \$75 - \$675 | Application | Wide variety of options Tailored to meet needs of IWGT Well known program Affordable Price Range |
|  Center for Talented Youth Summer Camps | Summer Overview Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth (CTY) | Grades 2-5 | Varies - includes STEM options | Online /Virtual - Blended Learning - includes Live Instruction | 1 or 3 Week camps | LIVE courses: \$1,300 Session-Based courses: \$409 - \$2,045 | Application with test scores required | Rigorous Tailored to the needs of IWGT Well known program |
| | CTY Online Programs Overview Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth (CTY) | Grades 2-5 | Varies - includes STEM options | Online /Virtual - Asynchronous or Self-Paced w/instructor | Self-paced Courses - determined by student | Individually Paced courses: \$919 - \$1,399 | | |
|  Gelfand Center of Carnegie Mellon Remote Lessons for Kids | Remote Lessons for Kids - Gelfand Center - Carnegie Mellon University | K-5 | STEM | Online /Virtual - Asynchronous or Self-Paced w/instructor | n/a | Free | n/a | Free On-demand enrichment Not supervised not interactive |
|  Purdue Online Courses | GER2I Open Online Courses - Purdue University College of Education | All Ages | STEM | Online /Virtual - Asynchronous or Self-Paced w/instructor | 3-4 weeks, Paced | Free | Application with test scores required | Limited offerings |
|  UC Berkeley Talent Program - Explorations | Explorations 2022 UC Berkeley ATDP | K-11 | Varies - includes STEM | Online /Virtual - Blended Learning - includes Live Instruction | 3 Weeks (1 Live meeting each week) | Per Course - begins at \$40 on up | Application | Limited offerings currently |



Virtual Courses and Camps - STEM or GT focused

| Program | Link | Grade availability | Focus | Learning Environment | Duration | Cost | Application Process | Notes |
|--|--|--------------------|---|--|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
|  Institute of Educational Advancement | Spyglass: Online Workshops - Institute for Educational Advancement IEA Academy - Schedule and Details | Ages 8-18 | Varies - includes STEM options | Online /Virtual | Varies by course | Generally \$130 - some Free programs | Application with test scores required | Affordable Low commitment |
|  Summer Institute for the Gifted (SIG) - Online Elementary Programs | Online Courses for SIG Elementary Students | Ages 6-12 | Varies - includes STEM options | Online /Virtual | 2 week program 8 hrs live per week 10 hrs independent | \$999 | Application with test scores required | Tailored to meet needs of IWGT Students can choose up to 4 "classes" |
| iD Tech | iD Tech Camps | Ages 7-19 | STEM - coding, game design, robotics, math, creative design | Online /Virtual - Blended Learning - includes Live Instruction | Varies | 1:1 \$70+ per single class | Registration - no application | Deep dive into coding and tech skills, options for creative expression |
| STEMed Labs | Programs STEMed Labs | Ages 7-13 | Science Topics Math Enrichment | Online /Virtual | Varies | Varies | Contact for more information | Affordable Easy time commitment |

Learning at Home Resources -STEM or GT focused

| Program | Link | Grade availability | Focus | Location | Duration | Cost | Application Process | Notes |
|--|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|----------|----------|---------------------|---|
|  Renzulli Learning - Home | Renzulli Learning Home Edition | K - 12, although not specified | Varies - includes Math options | Online /Virtual - Resources, no instructor | n/a | \$5/year | none | Parental monitoring required Not interactive - no direct instruction |

Learning at Home Resources -STEM or GT focused





| Program | Link | Grade availability | Focus | Location | Duration | Cost | Application Process | Notes |
|---|---|--------------------|--|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Challenge Math | Challenge Math Online: An Online Program for Gifted, Talented and Promising Math Students | 2-6 | Problem Solving | Online/Virtual | Varies - options for full year | \$20-\$50 | Registration | Assignments are emailed each week with detailed solutions |
|  Maryland Science Center | For Parents & Homeschoolers Maryland Science Center | K-5 | STEM | Online /Virtual | Resources for parents | Free | n/a | Resources for parents as well as activities for kids |
|  Smithsonian Institute | Fun Stuff for Kids and Teens Smithsonian Institution | All Ages | Varies by Museum, but includes STEM topics | Online /Virtual | Varies | Varies, some programs are free | None - but most require registration | Resources for parents as well as activities for kids |

Summer Programs


Local & Regional Summer Day Programs - STEM or GT focused

| Program | Link | Grade availability | Focus | Location | Duration | Cost | Application Process | Notes |
|--|---|---------------------|--------------------------------|--|-------------------|---------|---------------------------------------|---|
|  AEOP at Ft. Detrick | Gains in the Education of Mathematics and Science (GEMS) AEOP | Rising 5th grade/MS | Math and Science | Fort Detrick, Frederick MD | 1 Week | Free | Application required | Pays a \$125 Stipend to cover transportation and other costs |
|  Center for Talented Youth Summer Camps | Summer Overview Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth (CTY) | Grades 2-5 | Varies - includes STEM options | Gilman School, Baltimore MD Sandy Springs Friends School, Sandy Springs, MD | 1 or 3 Week camps | \$1000+ | Application with test scores required | Rigorous Tailored to the needs of IWGT Well known program |







Local & Regional Summer Day Programs - STEM or GT focused

| Program | Link | Grade availability | Focus | Location | Duration | Cost | Application Process | Notes |
|---|---|--------------------|----------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|
|  College of W&M Saturday and Summer Enrichment | K-12 Learner Programs W&M School of Education | K-12 | Varies - includes STEM options | College of William & Mary Williamsburg, VA | 1 Day Saturday Programs (| \$150 per course for Saturday Program - Lunch Included | Application with test scores required | Tailored to meet needs of IWGT Well known program More affordable Customizable |
|  Maryland Science Center- Summer Camp MSC | Camp MSC STEM Summer Camp Maryland Science Center | All Ages | STEM | Maryland Science Center, Baltimore MD | 1 Week | \$450 | Registration - no application | Engaging program with access to MSC resources, open to any student |
|  Smithsonian Summer Camp | Smithsonian Summer Camp and Virtual Adventures | K - 11 | All areas, including STEM topics | Various Smithsonian Museums | 1 Week | \$384 | Registration | In person and virtual options available |
|  iD Tech | Baltimore Summer STEM Camps at Towson Coding & More 2022 U. Maryland Summer Camps 2022 STEM, Coding, Robotics Kids & Teens iD Tech | Age 7+ | Coding and Computers | Towson, UMD | 1 week | TBD | Registration | Coding and robotics |

Regional Residential Summer Camps - - STEM or GT focused

| Program | Link | Grade availability | Focus | Location | Duration | Cost | Application Process | Notes |
|--|--|--------------------|---------------------|--|----------|---------|---------------------|---|
|  Camp Burgundy Junior Program Summer Camp | Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies | Age 8-10 | Ecological Sciences | Residential Camp: Capon Bridge, WV | 1 week | \$1,055 | Registration | Family engagement opportunity Affordable |

Additional Summer Learning for Gifted Students (within US) - GT focused

| Program | Link | Grade availability | Focus | Location | Duration | Cost | Application Process | Notes |
|--|--|--------------------|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|
|  Purdue University - Super Summer Program | Super Summer Youth Programs GER2I - Purdue University College of Education | K - 4 | Varies - includes STEM options | Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN | 1 week, 9:30 - 12 ET | Two 1Week Sessions offered \$315 for 1 week \$600 for both weeks | Registration | Tailored to meet needs of IWGT Well known program No application More Affordable |
|  Yunasa Summer Camp | Yunasa Summer Camps - Institute for Educational Advancement | Ages 10+ | Needs of GT Students | Residential Camp: Colorado & Michigan | 1 week | \$1,700 | Application with test scores required | Tailored to meet needs of IWGT |
|  Center for Bright Kids | CBK Summer Programs | Rising 4th+ | Varies | Residential Camp: Colorado Springs, CO | 1 week | \$2000 | Application with test scores required | Summer camp for GT students |
|  Altus Math-Epsilon Camp | Epsilon Camp | Ages 7-11 | Math focused | University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, CO | 1 week full day program Noon-9pm | \$2,900 | Application with test scores required | Highly rigorous Focus deeply on math |
|  UC Berkeley Talent Program - Explorations | Elementary Division 2022 UC Berkeley ATDP | K+ | Varies - includes STEM | UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA | 3 Weeks, 4 days a week | \$500+ per course | Application with test scores required | Summer enrichment program for GT students |
|  Center for Gifted Youth - LIU | Center for Gifted Youth Long Island University | 2 - 9 | Varies - includes STEM | Long Island, NY (non-residential) | 4 Weeks (19 days) | \$3,950 | Application with test scores required | Summer enrichment program for GT students |

Competitions & Group/Team Opportunities

Check to see if your local school has one of the following programs. If not, work with local/district administration, PTA, and/or community members & affiliates to bring it to your area.

*may be entered by an individual

◆ - Non-competitive team opportunities

STEM Competitions - Free/Low Cost

| STEM Competitions - Free/Low Cost | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| Organization | Website | Registration Deadlines | Cost | Structure | Focus/Description |
| ExploraVision K-3 Division 4-6 Division | ExploraVision | Team Registration: End of January: Project Deadline | Free - Teams of 2, 3, or 4 | Projects are submitted and prizes awarded on a regional & national level | ExploraVision challenges students envision and communicate new technology 10 or more years in the future through collaborative brainstorming and research of current science and technology |
| Junior Solar Sprint at Fort Detrick - 5th grade (through MS) | Junior Solar Sprint (JSS) AEOP | Team Registration: Registration Opens September - April | Free | Local competition with opportunities to move on to national competition | Solar Car Building |
| Science Olympiad | Maryland Science Olympiad Elementary Science Olympiad | Team Registration: Mid March | No National/Local Fees Competition Fee \$100/team Does require materials | Single competition at local level | At the K-6 level, Elementary Science Olympiad (ESO) program can come in the form of a competitive tournament, a hands-on science Fun Day or an expert-filled Science Olympiad Fun Night |
| Science Bee* | National Science Bee | Administer Online qualifying exam mid January | Free for local qualifying exam \$40 for Regional if qualifies \$125 for National if qualifies | Individual Competition Regional and National events | Qualifying test - 5 mc on general science knowledge Regional & National competition are buzzer-based -Can also compete in Academic Bee- NOTE: 2023 Nationals will be held in Arlington, VA |
| History Bee, Geography Bee | National History Bee & Bowl MS & ElemDivisions - International Geography Bee | Administer Online qualifying exam mid January | Free for local qualifying exam \$40 for Regional if qualifies \$125 for National if qualifies | Individual Competition Regional and National events | Qualifying test - 5 mc on general science knowledge Regional & National competition are buzzer-based -Can also compete in Academic Bee- NOTE: 2023 Nationals will be held in Arlington, VA |

STEM Competitions - Free/Low Cost

| Organization | Website | Registration Deadlines | Cost | Structure | Focus/Description |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|---|
| 💰 Academic Bowl | Academic Bowl | Varies | Fee for Regional Qualifiers | Team Competition | NOTE: 2023 Nationals will be held in Arlington, VA |

Team Problem Based Learning

| Organization | Website | Registration Deadlines | Cost | Structure | Focus/Description |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| Destination Imagination Elementary - 3-5 | Destination Imagination Maryland Destination Imagination | Team Registration: Opens in Fall Projects should be complete by February | \$110 Team Registration \$25 pp Manager Background MD Fee \$30 Tournament Fee \$50 + Fees & Materials Avg. Total: \$450 | Teams of up to 7 compete Regional to National Tournaments (Rising Star is non-competitive) | Destination Imagination (DI) provides experiential, project-based learning in a competitive environment, that helps with problem solving, creativity, collaboration, and communication. Students Choose from 7 Challenges to compete in |
| Odyssey of the Mind | Odyssey of the Mind Maryland/DC Odyssey of the Mind | Team Registration: Opens in Fall Register in early January for state tournament | \$240-290 per competing group \$190 for additional groups at a school | Teams of 3-7 may compete: Regional to Association to National Tournaments | Teams of students select a problem, create a solution, then present their solution in a competition against other teams in the same problem and division. |
| Rec Foundation: VEX Online Challenges | Online Challenges REC Foundation | Team Registration: Opens in Mid October | Free with VexIQ Team Registration | Teams complete a project and submit it digitally | Various digital/media challenges related to the VEX IQ Challenge (see below) |

Math Competitions

| Organization | Website | Registration Deadlines | Cost | Structure | Focus/Description |
|----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| 💰 Challenge 24 Club* | 24 Challenge® Math Program | n/a | Free - does requires "24 Game" Cards | Tournaments set up locally - no governing body | Challenge 24 is a math fluency game |
| Math Kangaroo* | Math Kangaroo | Early Dec for schools Mid Dec for individuals | Free to Register School \$21/student to compete | One day competition - online or paper in pencil if school registered as a site | Math Competition with an emphasis on problem solving and logic |

| Math Competitions | | | | | |
|-------------------|--|---|---|--|-------------------|
| Organization | Website | Registration Deadlines | Cost | Structure | Focus/Description |
| Noetic Math* | Math Contest for Elementary and Middle School Students Noetic Learning | Fall Test: Mid October Spring: Mid March | \$69 for class \$29 for individual student | Twice yearly online or paper & pencil math competition (held at home school) | Problem solving |

| Robotic/Coding/Engineering | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| Organization | Website | Registration Deadlines | Cost | Structure | Focus/Description |
| ◆ First Lego League Explore - grades 2-4: Robotics | FIRST in Maryland | Team Registration: Begins in May and Closes in Early October | \$125: Yearly Team Registration First time registrations: \$265 for Lego SPIKE Set | No formal competitions - but local or regional “festivals” are organized to share and celebrate designs | Lego Modeling Challenge - Challenge problem posed and students present solution with a model and poster, but does require coding or robot building |
| First Lego League Challenge - grades 4-8: Robotics | FIRST in Maryland FIRST LEGO League Game and Season | Team Registration: Begins in May and Closes in Early October | \$250: Yearly Team Registration \$100 Yearly Build Set First time registration: \$450 for Lego SPIKE Prime | Regional/Affiliate Competitions organized - no National Track for ES | Lego Robotics Challenge - must use Mindstorm or SPIKE Prime to solve the Challenges. Culminates in a regional competition. |
| VexIQ Grades 3 - 8: Robotics | VEX IQ Challenge REC Foundation | Team Registration: Based on local event rules | VEX IQ Kit (reusable) \$649 | Teams of 4-5 work together to build and compete in local/regional events | Competitive Robot building - teams build and code robots to perform a challenge task - leads to national competition |
| 💰 Computer Science League: Coding | American Computer Science League | Team Registration: December 31 | \$100per team of 3+ or more + additional study materials | Online competitions/tests -top scorers invited to Online Finals | 4 Online tests/competitions of Computer Science material with top scorers being invited to a National competition |

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