



The Creative School of Inquiry  
At Chestnut Mountain  
Elementary School

**2011-2012  
Application Packet  
for Rising Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders**



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**Student Name**

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**Current School**

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**Grade Level in 2011-2012**

## Introduction

Creative School of Inquiry (CSI) is a specialized learning environment created to turn students on to learning in the digital age! Dewey's *Theory of Inquiry* (1938/1991), E. Paul Torrance's model for *Guiding Creative Talent* (1962), and teaching practices suggested in *Curriculum 21* (Jacobs, 2010) guide the teaching practices used in this program. It is the mission of the CSI program to promote excellence in learning through teamwork, character, research, and rigorous authentic experiences.

CSI provides a rich learning environment for K-2 students that features research-based Science/Social Studies curriculum. CSI teachers are carefully selected for their creativity, content expertise, and ability to teach in an inquiry fashion incorporating technology skills. CSI is a program of choice offered at Chestnut Mountain Elementary School. Students who reside outside of the Chestnut Mountain Elementary School community must provide their own transportation to and from the school to be in the CSI program.

Parents are an integral component of the success of this program. They commit to provide transportation for their children to and from school if they live outside the Chestnut Mountain Elementary School zone and to support their child's learning at home. In return, CSI provides opportunities for students to thrive in a personalized environment dedicated to meeting the needs of the passionate learner both academically and creatively.

## The Creative School of Inquiry Application Process

### Requirements to Apply

Any Hall County School District student in Kindergarten through 5th grade may apply. Parents of students who live outside the CMES attendance zone must provide transportation for their children to and from school.

### Application and Selection Procedure

1. Parents/Guardians and students complete a Student Application and submit it to Ashley Hayes, CSI Program Coordinator

CSI at Chestnut Mountain Elementary School  
Attn: Ashley Hayes  
4841 Union Church Road  
Flowery Branch, GA 30542

2. Parents/Guardians or 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students are to ask their child's current teacher to complete a confidential recommendation form for the student. Rising K students are exempt from this requirement. (See p. 6)
3. Completed application packets will be reviewed by the CSI Selection Committee. Students will be selected based on their applications, recommendations, and transcripts (test scores and report cards) and evidence of the traits listed below:

Criteria	Evidence/Documentation
<b><i>The student must:</i></b>	
Demonstrate grade level proficiency in the areas of reading and math.	Transcript Recommendations Application
Possess qualities associated with creativity, including curiosity, resourcefulness and a problem-solving disposition	Application Recommendations
Be motivated to excel in his or her studies	Transcript Recommendations Application
Possess the ability to work independently and in small group settings	Transcript Recommendations

4. Committee decisions are final. Applicants not selected during the initial review will be placed on a waiting list and may be admitted to the program if any selected students elect not to attend or are disqualified for any reason.

### **Application Checklist for Rising Kindergarten Students**

- \_\_\_ 1. Complete all of the student and parent/guardian information in Parts I and II of the application packet. (page 4)
- \_\_\_ 2. Complete the *Parent Questionnaire* and attach it to the application packet.
- \_\_\_ 3. Have your child complete the Student Activity (page 7) and attach it to the application packet.
- \_\_\_ 4. Complete *Parent Assurances* (page 5).
- \_\_\_ 5. Sign and have your child sign the *Certification* statement on page 5.

### **Application Checklist for Rising 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders**

(Please check off as each step is completed.)

- \_\_\_ 1. Complete all of the student and parent/guardian information in Parts I and II of the application packet. (page 4)
- \_\_\_ 2. Obtain official copies of your child's standardized testing history (GKids, CRCT, ITBS) and most recent report card and attach them to the application packet.
- \_\_\_ 3. Complete the *Parent Questionnaire* and attach it to the application packet.
- \_\_\_ 4. Have your child complete the Student Activity (page 7) and attach it to the application packet.
- \_\_\_ 5. Ask your child's teacher to complete the short confidential recommendation form, and if they agree, give each teacher one of the half-page instruction sheets found on page 6 of this application packet.
- \_\_\_ 6. Complete *Parent Assurances* (page 5).
- \_\_\_ 7. Sign and have your child sign the *Certification* statement on page 5.

**The completed application packet must arrive at Chestnut Mountain Elementary no later than Friday, April 15, 2011. Bring the packet to the school or mail to:**

**CSI at Chestnut Mountain Elementary School  
Attn: Ashley Hayes, CSI Program Coordinator  
4841 Union Church Road  
Flowery Branch, GA 30542**

I. Student Information

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Current School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade for 2011-2012: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate area(s) of special interest: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Student's Computer Skills: Excellent Good Fair Limited



II. Parent/Guardian Information

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ (must provide for communication purposes only)

Child's current school: \_\_\_\_\_

Name / Grade level of siblings of student applying: \_\_\_\_\_

Name / Grade level of siblings not applying to CSI, but requesting attendance at CMES: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



III. Academic Record – for rising 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students

- 1. Print and/or photocopy and attach your child's standardized testing history (both ITBS and CRCT if available). These must be official records, which may be obtained from the data clerk at your child's school, Infinite Campus and/or your own copies of standardized test score reports.
- 2. Photocopy and attach your child's most recent report card.



IV. Parent Questionnaire

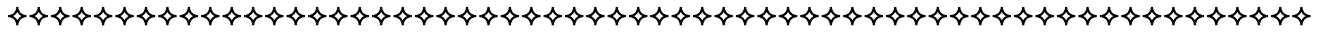
Please answer the three questions below. All responses must be typed. Please print them and attach them to the application. Hand-written responses to these questions will not be accepted. Limit your responses to two pages total. Only two pages will be reviewed by the Selection Committee.

- 1. **What are the gifts and talents that your child will bring to the CSI?** (Feel free to discuss not only academics, but also topics related to character, leadership, etc.)
- 2. **What have been your child's greatest challenges in school, and what has been done to help your child overcome those challenges?** (For example: particular learning difficulties, social/emotional issues, illness, stress)
- 3. **Please share some of your expectations in the following areas:**
  - a. **Academics**
  - b. **Enrichment**
  - c. **Behavior**
  - d. **Homework**



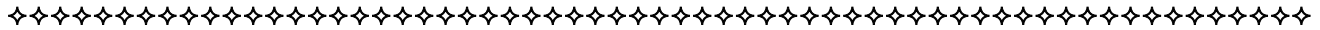
**V. Student Activity (to be completed by students only)**

For rising K-2 students: Please have your child create a picture incorporating the line found on p. 7 of this application packet. Parents of rising Kindergarten students may scribe their child’s description of their picture. The response is limited to **one page total**. Only one page will be reviewed by the Selection Committee.



**VI. References (For rising 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders only)**

Please ask your child’s current teacher to complete short confidential recommendation form, which will be submitted electronically. If the teacher agrees to serve as a reference, please give the teacher one of the half-page instruction sheets found on page 6 of this application packet. Only **one** teacher recommendation will be accepted.



**VII. Parent Assurances**

- I grant permission for the CSI Selection Committee to request and review my child’s complete academic and discipline records.
- If I live outside the Chestnut Mtn. Elementary attendance zone, and my child is accepted into the program, I will provide transportation to and from school for my child.
- I understand that the nature of the CSI curriculum and the variety of individual and/or small group activities available in the CSI program require students to exhibit maturity and self control. Therefore, if my child has persistent problems with behavior and/or motivation in the CSI program, I understand that he/she will return to his/her home school or be placed in a regular classroom (if living in the CMES attendance zone).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



**VIII. Certification and Signature Page**

I certify that the information contained in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge, and I understand that if selected for the CSI program, falsified statements may be grounds for removal.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (Print please)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Legal Guardian Name (Print please)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## The Creative School of Inquiry Student Reference

Dear Colleague:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as a reference for \_\_\_\_\_, who is applying to the Creative School of Inquiry program (CSI) at Chestnut Mountain Elementary School. Your confidential ratings of this student's interests and aptitudes, creativity and personal responsibility will be submitted electronically. Please e-mail our CSI Program Coordinator at [ashley.hayes@hallco.org](mailto:ashley.hayes@hallco.org) to request a recommendation form. She will then e-mail the short form to you, along with instructions for the completion and submission of the form. Your professional observations are very important as we attempt to select students who will thrive in the unique learning environment of the CSI program. So, again, thank you for being an important part of the application process.

Sincerely,

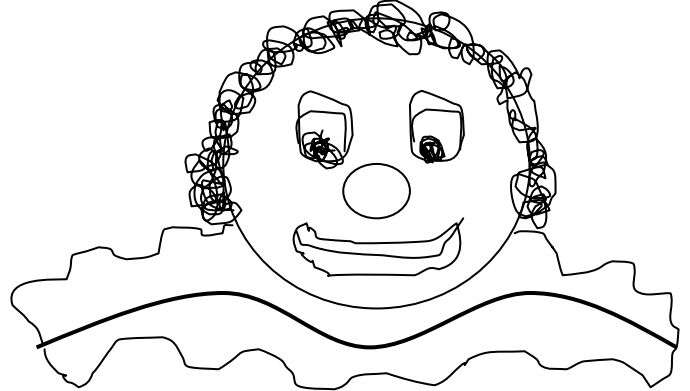
Dr. Sabrina May, Principal  
Chestnut Mountain Elementary School

### Creative Lines

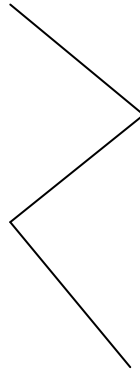
Let's look at the line to the right.



Most children would think to turn this line into a "snake" or "hills", but that is a very common response. However, if you used the line as part of a clown's collar, then that would be more original and unique.



Think of a picture/object that you can draw with the line below. Then write a sentence that tells about your new creation. (Parents of rising K students may scribe for their child.)



Here is my sentence:

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