

Creative School of Inquiry at Chestnut Mountain Elementary School Commonly Asked Questions

1. Once the student is accepted into the CSI program for 2011-2012, will they have to reapply each year?

The students will not need to reapply if they have had a successful year in the program.

2. Will siblings of CSI students outside of the CMES attendance zone be able to attend Chestnut Mountain if they are not in the program?

Yes, it is our desire to keep families together so they can be part of the school community.

3. How will CMES's SEARCH program be affected by CSI?

We will continue to have the SEARCH program at CMES. Students who are in the SEARCH program, and CSI program are served by the SEARCH teacher through the co-teaching and pull-out models.

4. Can the students be moved out of the program if they are not being successful?

We would like the opportunity to work with our parents and students to ensure success, however if a student continues to struggle after interventions have taken place, a meeting with administration may be requested by the parent or the CSI teacher. A committee comprising of the parent(s), teacher and administrator will determine removal from the CSI program.

5. Will the class size of the CSI program be smaller than the other classes in the grade level?

The class sizes for the CSI program will mirror the class sizes for the other classes in the school, which follow state guidelines.

6. Who are the CSI teachers?

Currently, the program is taught by Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Little and Mr. Wandrum. Mrs. Hayes, our Search teacher is the CSI Program Coordinator. Additional teachers for the CSI program have not yet been chosen. We are waiting to see how many applications we receive to determine how many teachers are needed at each grade level.

7. Who will serve on the CSI Committee, which chooses the students for the program?

Applications will be reviewed by CMES administration, teachers and possibly Dr. Sally Krisel, Rigor Specialist for Hall County Schools.

8. Will there be a certain percentage of students outside of the CMES attendance zone who are accepted into this program?

No, students are selected for the program based on the criteria outlined in the application packet, and not by their address.

9. How will math be incorporated into the CSI way of teaching since CMES uses the Singapore Math program?

We will continue to use the Singapore Math program to teach the Georgia Performance Standards; however, math will also be imbedded into the units of study for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. It will probably take less direct instructional time than the traditional classroom.

10. How does CSI impact the transition to da Vinci?

The CSI program is much like the type of teaching at da Vinci, however being a part of CSI does not assure the student's acceptance into da Vinci.

11. Now that you are adding CSI classes for Kindergarten, First and Second grade students, how will their instructional day be different?

The K-2 students will experience inquiry-based units of student related to Science and Social Studies standards. Students will complete inquiry-based projects that incorporate technology. They will also be taught research skills at their level, to help prepare them for the immersed inquiry-based CSI program that we have in 3rd -5th grade.