

# **Creative School of Inquiry (CSI) at Chestnut Mountain Elementary**

## **For Rising Kindergarten through 5th graders**

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 pedagogical practices suggested in *Curriculum 21* (Jacobs, 2010) will 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.

For the 2011-2012 academic year, one class at each grade level K-2 and two classes for each grade level, 3rd through 5th will be part of the Creative School of Inquiry. Students will be accepted into the program through an application process. Limited choice will be offered to students who attend neighboring schools. It is important to note **transportation will not be provided for students outside of the CMES community.**

## **CSI: An Outlet for Creativity and Inquiry**

The **Creative School of Inquiry** at Chestnut Mountain Elementary is a program of choice designed for students who would grow academically through non-traditional pedagogy. This program guides students to *question, research, discover* and *create*.

**Question:** In a CSI classroom, the Georgia Performance Standards will be taught through integrated inquiry-based units, focused on student interest. Teachers will guide students in the creation of questions based on their interest in the topic of study.

**Research:** Students will research answers to their questions. Technology will be integrated into instruction and student research.

**Discover:** Students will discover answers to their questions, instead of having the answers

delivered through direct instruction.

**Create:** Students will present the information they learn to real audiences through various creative channels such as theatre, multi-media presentations, or interactive displays, and document their learning through digital portfolios.

## Student Traits

For students to be successful in this learning environment, 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students need to be :

- Proficient in Reading and Math
- Creative
- Motivated
- Problem Solvers

## Application Process

Parents who want their child to be considered for the CSI program should complete an application packet. The packet includes:

- general information form
- parent and student questionnaire/activity
- copies of the student's academic record (report card, testing reports)
- Teacher confidential recommendation form

Application packets are available on line at [www.hallco.org/cmcs](http://www.hallco.org/cmcs).

## Informational Parent Meeting Dates

January 11, 2011 - 6:30pm / January 21, 2011 - 9:00am / February 10, 2011 - 6:30pm

If you are not able to attend any of the above meeting dates/times, an informational video is available on our website. If you have additional questions, please contact Dr. Sabrina May, Principal for more information at 770-967-3121 or via email at [sabrina.may@hallco.org](mailto:sabrina.may@hallco.org).