

Staten Island Academy
Talented and Gifted Camp
Course Offering Guide
Summer 2018



These are course offerings for Summer 2018, and additional courses may be offered. All classes are dependent upon enrollment. Notification will be made by email regarding additions or deletions.

For Students Entering Kindergarten & Grade 1

- **Animal Study (Clay Wollney)**
 - Participants will learn about the care, natural history and domestication of some common pets. They will concentrate on the animals in the science classroom, including hamsters, geckos and frogs, as well as a few special visitors including a rabbit and a tortoise.

- **Passport to the World (Samantha Taranto)**
 - Come explore the geography, customs, food, art, dance and music of different cultures around the globe. Students will go on a virtual journey to places they would love to visit and create their own passport in the process.

- **Patterns (Nicole Taranto)**
 - Patterns are all around us! We will explore the concept of patterns through art, music and in nature. Identifying and creating patterns is the beginning of lifelong math skills, and students will have many opportunities to hone these skills. We will focus on identifying patterns and creating our own!

- **Read with Me! (Nicole Taranto)**
 - Together we will read some of the best known children's stories and practice our essential reading skills. We will practice re-telling stories, and even create our own stories based on what we read. Together, we will fall in love with reading and begin to learn what it takes to be an author.

- **STEM Workshop (Marissa Barbarino)**
 - STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. In this course, students will engage in questioning, problem solving, collaboration and hands-on activities. We will work together to create our own projects and reflect on our experiments. Each week will be exciting and different as we put our creativity to good use!

- **We Dig Dinosaurs! (Jaclyn Grella)**
 - Go on an adventure back in time to learn about dinosaurs! Students will study the different types of dinosaurs that roamed the earth millions of years ago. Our young paleontologists will learn about fossils and archaeology. They will read dinosaur books, make dinosaur art projects and even sing some dinosaur songs.

For Students Entering Grades 2 & 3

- **Design Thinking & Crafting Workshop (Samantha Taranto)**
 - Does your child have an artistic side and a desire to create something new from scratch? In this course, students will use the design-thinking model to develop their own functional crafts. They will analyze patterns and designs in everyday items, such as clothing, pillow cases, jewelry and cards. Students will have many opportunities to make and perfect their own creations.
- **I'm an Author! (Samantha Taranto)**
 - Do you want to create your own story book? In this class, we will read your favorite books and practice essential reading skills. You will become the author and illustrator of your very own story book by the end of this class! We will learn the skills to draft, edit, write and illustrate!
- **Make Your Garden Grow! (Jaclyn Grella)**
 - In this course, students will cultivate a love of nature and learn how to grow flowers, vegetables and other plants. They will study seeds, soil, compost, water and insects. Students will explore the gardening theme through literature, music and art projects.
- **Owls, Owls and More Owls (Sarah Powell)**
 - Students will explore life and earth sciences as they discover more about owls through research and hands-on activities. Students will create their own nonfiction book about owls, which will include a pellet dissection chart, before and after scientific notes, life cycle information and a food chain web. They will even learn about owl sounds! Species covered include barn, barred, burrowing, great gray, great horned, screech, short-eared and snowy owls.
- **Space Explorers (Jaclyn Grella)**
 - Get ready for an adventure through space! In this course, students will learn about the planets, stars and constellations. They will learn what life is like for astronauts and hear about famous space missions throughout history. Students will explore space through literature, art projects and music. They will even build their own model of the solar system!
- **Super Sleuths (Nicole Taranto)**
 - Students will explore the exciting career of being a detective! They will have opportunities to study forensic science and commonly used investigation techniques, like fingerprinting, DNA testing and polygraph testing. Students will read crime stories and practice solving crimes using deductive reasoning skills.
- **Theater (Yvette Washington-Wheatley)**
 - Lights, camera, action! Students will work over the three-week period on a multi-age production that will be presented on the final day of TAG camp. In the process, students will develop their singing voices, acting skills, diction and stage presence.

For Students Entering Grades 4 & 5

- Art Makers Around the World (Catherine Dunning)
 - This class will focus on different civilizations. We will use clay, wood, plaster and paint to create our own projects that reflect an understanding of ancient artisans and their creations. Think pre-Columbian animal sculptures and ancient Egyptian scarabs!!!

- Construction, Culture and Nature (Clay Wollney)
 - Over the three-week camp, students will work to build a teepee, longhouse or wigwam from gathered branches. As they work on the structure, they will learn about the cultures behind these structures and how those cultures worked with nature to fulfill their daily needs. Students will explore the rich history of Native Americans on Staten Island.

- Creative Writing Workshop (Sarah Powell)
 - In this course, students will have the opportunity to develop their voices as creative writers. We will engage in both reading and writing exercises to analyze and enjoy the art of storytelling. By focusing on physical, mental and emotional exercises, students will be encouraged to develop their own natural creativity as they also examine the steps of the writing process.

- STEM Laboratory (Sarah Powell)
 - Each week, students will solve a given problem while learning to cooperate with other students. Each STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) challenge encourages creative thinking. The challenges incorporate a budget aspect for "buying" the needed supplies. Your student engineers must use the available supplies while sticking to a budget for each STEM activity. These STEM projects are sure to keep young scientists engaged, learning and well-prepared for their STEM-filled future.

- Theater (Yvette Washington-Wheatley)
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For Students Entering Grades 6 & 7

- Bays, Beaches and Beyond (Clay Wollney)
 - From the local salt marshes and mudflats to bays and the open ocean, participants will explore the world of salt water. Daily challenges cover a range of subjects in oceanography and marine biology including the construction of simple hydrometers to measure salinity, building a salt marsh aquarium, dissecting a shark and making fish print T-shirts.

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- Through the Eyes of an Artist (Catherine Dunning)
 - In this class, we will look at different famous artists and see how they show their world through the art they make. We will create projects that reflect each artist's style using different mediums, including clay, wood, wire, plaster, paper, paint and cardboard. Think Alexander Calder, Matisse and more!!

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