



The GALACTIC Stars Newsletter

September 2011



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GALACTIC Frequently Asked Questions

Why do the bus routes home from GALACTIC take so long?

We receive many questions about why it takes so long for students to arrive home after a day at GALACTIC. When your child rides the bus to and from his or her home school, that route is local and just moves around that particular school attendance area. Since GALACTIC is a cross-district program, our bus routes are spread over a wider area, so they take a lot longer. Most of the final stops on our seven bus routes are to be dropped off before 5:00 p.m., but as you know, that is not the case for the first two weeks of GALACTIC, because the drivers are still mastering the fastest way to complete the route and our routes change each day of the week. Thus, we appreciate your patience. When you have questions about transportation home from GALACTIC, please call our office at (314) 953-4954 and we'll do our very best to answer them.

What choices are there for the school lunch at GALACTIC?

There are always four choices with school lunch. Two standard choices are chef salads and the peanut butter and jelly sandwiches called uncrustables. Along with those, there are always two entrees. For example, choices might be pizza or nachos with cheese. Another set of entrees might be a hot hamburger or chicken nuggets. Aside from those choices, each lunch includes a vegetable, a fruit and a drink.

Does my child have recess at GALACTIC?

Yes – every day for about 20 minutes. We go outside if weather permits. We have indoor recess during rain, snow or extreme heat or cold.

Does my child have to wear a uniform?

If your child attends GALACTIC for fifth-, fourth-, third- or second-grade they are NOT required to wear a uniform to GALACTIC because they are here all day. If your child is a first-grader and uniforms are worn at his or her home school, then they must wear a uniform because they will return to their schools at lunch time.

Can I visit GALACTIC to see what the classes are like?

Absolutely. You can sign in at the office first, then visit any of your child's classes. You can also help out as a volunteer. We have many classes where instruction is delivered with hands-on activities and we can always use an extra set of hands in some art courses, with some science experiments and in some math measurement activities. Call the office at (314) 953-4954 if you are interested in volunteering or speak directly with a teacher.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday, September 22 - GALACTIC's annual picnic at St. Ferdinand Park, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (see page 3 for details)

Thursday, October 6 - GALACTIC Booster Club Meeting at HSD Learning Center, 6:00 p.m.

Friday, October 14 - No School, a half-day of professional development and a half-day transition day

Thursday, October 20 - GALACTIC Parent-Teacher Conferences, Open House-style from 9:00 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Friday, October 21 - GALACTIC Parent-Teacher Conferences, Open House-style from 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 22 - Hazelwood's Promethean Conference

Thursday, November 3 - Guest speaker will discuss how to advocate for your gifted child, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

November 12-13, 19-20 - FIRST LEGO Robotics Qualifiers. Times and locations are TBA.



FIRST® LEGO™ League

Eighteen students were selected from a pool of applicants to participate in the FIRST® LEGO™ League (FLL) robotics competition. FIRST stands for For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology. Our three teams will research aspects of this year's FLL theme - food safety. They will pick a particular food safety challenge, develop a solution to that challenge and present their work. Students will also design, build, test and program robots to complete challenging food-related tasks. These students will work many hours outside of school to prepare for the November qualifying competition in hopes of earning the chance to compete in the St. Louis Regional Tournament in December.

From Nurse Chris: Planning for EMERGENCIES

Do you have an EMERGENCY KIT for your home? It is very important to plan for the possibility of an emergency and to keep your whole family safe. The following items should be part of your emergency kit and kept in containers that can be easily carried:

- Bottled water (one gallon of water per person per day, to last three days)
- Canned or dried food (a three-day supply of non-perishable food items for each person. Remember to include a manual can opener)
- Battery-powered radio
- Flashlight
- Extra batteries for radio and flashlight
- First-aid kit
- Prescription medicine
- Clean clothes and sturdy shoes
- Extra money/credit cards
- Sturdy trash bags
- Formula, diapers and baby food if there is an infant in your home

Nurse Chris

STARBUCKS

Our PBIS – Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports -- program is called Starbucks. The four ways in which a student can earn a Starbuck are great thinking, hard work, respect and kindness and having a positive attitude. Starbucks are handed out by any staff member in our building to students who earn them. Beginning in September at lunch, three Starbucks winners’ names will be pulled from a jar. Prizes can be small balls, stickers, holiday pencils, small puzzle books, toys, etc. We are actually in need of more “small” prizes. If you can donate some, please drop them off in our office. Each quarter, we plan a fine dining event, where we pull the names of 12 students to eat at a special table with tablecloth, centerpiece and a treat. Finally, at the end of each semester, we recognize five to 10 students who earn the highest number of Starbucks. Those students may win root beer floats, a popcorn party, or larger prizes.

Come hang out at the GALACTIC family picnic

Let’s come together to celebrate the start of the school year.

Where: St. Ferdinand Park in Florissant

When: Thursday, September 22 (rain date is September 29)

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Cost: \$3 per person or \$15 per family

Hot dogs, baked beans, drinks and paper products provided.

Please bring one large side dish to share (pot luck).

Please return this form with payment to GALACTIC:

Family Name: _____

\$3 x _____ people \$ _____

\$15 per family \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Questions? Call Colleen Naughton at (314) 401-0748 or e-mail her at colleen_naughton@yahoo.com

Special Opportunities
For Your High Achievers
and Highly Motivated Students

Saturday Classes Begin October 8

Enrollment is open for Gifted Resource Council's Saturday Learning Labs

- More than 30 high-interest courses in art, history, literature, math and science
- Students love these hands-on, thought-provoking courses
- Students get to interact cooperatively with other, academically-talented students
- Students can take as many as two of these 90-minute classes
- Students learn *how* to think rather than *what* to think
- Parents may attend free workshops on parenting gifted children

What you can do

- Select a few students who would thrive in an enrichment environment
- Tell them about Saturday Learning Labs
- Follow-up with the students and their parents

What parents should know

Ages served: 3-14

Dates: October 8 to November 12

Eligibility: By teacher recommendation (no testing necessary)

Location: Wydown Middle School -- central located in Clayton

Tuition: only \$95 (for nine hours)

Why GRC?

- Proven programs since 1983
- Experienced, outstanding teachers
- Opportunities to pursue passions
- Parenting workshops
- Stimulating academic challenges
- Hands-on, problem-solving approach

For more information

Visit the website - www.giftedresourcecouncil.org

Call Susan Flesch, executive director, Gifted Resource Council, at (314) 962-5920.