

Nutrition research shows that ***eating small portions*** between breakfast and lunch and then between lunch and dinner is beneficial to overall health. We have found that several parents send healthy snacks to school with their scholars. We applaud you!

Healthy Snacks are Encouraged: Unhealthy snacks, such as highly processed foods– (Doritos, Takis, Cheetos) and high sugars snacks (candy, “sports” drinks, sugar drinks) are high in sugar, fat, sodium, dangerous preservatives and other additives. Read the ingredient list – if you can’t pronounce the ingredients, don’t eat it! We **discourage** these types of junk foods in the classroom with your scholars.

The following is a short list of very healthy snacks that will benefit the health and learning of your students.

- Fresh fruit such as apple slices
- Yogurt
- Trail Mix with nuts, seeds, and dried fruit.
- Fresh vegetables such as red peppers, broccoli, carrots, celery
- Whole wheat snacks such as pretzels, crackers and cheese

Nut allergy alert – please notify your scholar’s teacher with a doctor’s note of any nut allergies.

Vending Machine Policy: Elementary Scholars are ***NOT*** allowed to purchase or consume vending machine products during the school day. Please do not send money for vending machine items. This machine is designated for Paideia staff only.

Gifted Program

Arizona State defines a gifted pupil as a pupil who has scored at or above the 97th percentile in one area, or a combination of verbal, nonverbal or quantitative reasoning areas, on a state approved test.

Gifted Scholar Definition:

- A scholar who has been identified as gifted by another district or charter school
- A scholar who has scored at or above the 95th percentile on a state approved test in one or more areas- verbal, nonverbal or quantitative
- A scholar who has scored above the 90th percentiles on a state approved test in one or more areas- verbal, nonverbal or quantitative AND has supportive documentation including, but not limited to:
 - Gifted characteristic checklist
 - Creativity checklist
 - Above the 90th percentile in AIMSweb assessments
 - Above the 90th percentile in NWEA/MAP scores
 - Reading fluency and comprehension 2 years or more above grade level
 - Shows mastery of above level math concepts based on a comprehensive end-of-year grade level math assessment
 - Exceeding grade level standards (grades ES or 4)

Gifted Identification Process:

Scholars may be assessed at Paideia Academy, free of charge, during regularly scheduled testing periods. Evaluations performed by outside, qualified evaluators at the expense of parents or guardians will also be accepted based on the above qualifications.

- 1) Teacher, parent, or scholar submits Gifted Referral Form with supporting documents.
- 2) Referral is reviewed by Gifted Coordinator
 - If insufficient evidence the scholar doesn't qualify, and parent is notified
 - If sufficient evidence for giftedness, the parent is notified and is asked to sign a permission for testing.
- 3) The scholar is tested using the CogAt test during the next available session.
 - Test results indicate scholar DOES NOT qualify for Gifted Services – parent notified.
 - Test results indicate scholar DOES qualify for services - Gifted Identification form sent home and meeting scheduled to plan for services.
- 4) Gifted Services begin

Gifted Program Services

When a scholar is identified for Gifted Services through the Paideia or outside documentation:

- 1) Gifted Coordinator sets up a meeting with the classroom teacher, parent(s) and scholar to fill out the Gifted Profile Sheet and develop the Individualized Program of Study. A copy is kept in the scholar's leadership Notebook and goals are reviewed throughout the year.
- 2) Scholars begin participating in the services the team chose from the continuum of service options including some or all - enrichment programs, cluster classrooms, acceleration, curriculum compacting, special projects, leadership teams.
- 3) Learning Portfolios are shared with parents and community at Quarterly Celebrations throughout the year.

Gifted scholars are expected to maintain an ongoing Learning Portfolio in conjunction with their leadership Notebook to summarize learning and display growth over the school year. Learning Portfolios along with Leadership Notebooks will be displayed at Quarterly Celebrations. Scholars within the Gifted program are expected to continue displaying exemplary pro-social behaviors and leadership to the community.

Grades, Report Cards, Promotion and Retention

Grades and Arizona Standards Scholars must meet AZ Academic Standards in all core content areas of reading, writing, math and science by consistently scoring at least “meets standards” by the end of the grading period in all core content areas. Scholars who fall below this level will be put on academic alert. Scholars who consistently fall below “Meets Standards” in the core academic areas of reading, writing, and math may be placed on academic alert with the risk of being retained in the upcoming school year.