



August 28, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to Savannah High School of Liberal Arts where character counts! It is a pleasure to welcome you to the 2015-2016 school year.

I am Mrs. Linda Smith, Gifted Specialist at Savannah High School of Liberal Arts. It is my hope that your student will find his/her participation in the gifted program full of rich experiences that will inspire their love of learning- both in and outside of the classroom, and throughout life.

SHS provides opportunities and resources for gifted learners to:

- Foster creative, critical, and innovative thinking.
- Practice self-directed learning and independent problem-solving.
- Engage in collaborative experiences.
- Apply life skills for leadership, accountability, adaptability, productivity, and social responsibility.

Gifted Standards:

- 1) **Research Skills**- Develops advanced research skills and methods which include in-depth self-selected topics within an area of study.
- 2) **Cognitive Skills**- Develops and practices creative thinking and creative problem solving skills within a variety of complex topics.
- 3) **Learning Skills**- Develops and practices critical thinking and logical problem solving skills in academic areas.
- 4) **Communication Skills**- Develops advanced communication skills via new techniques, materials, and formats (written, oral or visual) in products and through presentations shared with an audience.
- 5) **Affective Skills**- Develops an understanding of self and how their unique characteristics may influence interactions with others.

Upcoming Events:

- Your student has the opportunity to take the Preliminary Scholastic Achievement Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) on Wednesday, October 14, 2015. Students who are served in the SHS Gifted Program are highly encouraged to take the PSAT/NMSQT in grades 9, 10 & 11. SHS will use student PSAT scores to determine readiness in Advanced Placement courses. Additionally, students will receive feedback on strengths and weaknesses on skills necessary for college study. The PSAT will help prepare students for the SAT by becoming familiar with the kinds of questions and exact directions seen on the SAT. Here are some resources students can utilize to prepare for these test(s):



Khan Academy, SAT/ACT readiness and relevant prep/study resources, College Board : SAT Practice Tests, GA College 411, ACT.org and SAT Exam Prep to name a few.

I am looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure your student achieve their highest potential. I recognize that in order to be successful in school, students need support from both the home and school. A strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your student's education. As partners, we share the responsibility for your student's success and I want you to know that I will do my very best to carry out my responsibilities.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Linda Smith, Gifted Specialist

(912) 395-2535