

Edge Academy Handbook

2019-2020



Mission: A place where students can Engage, Discover, Grow and Experience new learning.

Parent Copy

Table of Contents

- Vision of Edge Academy and Support Staff.....Page 2
- Introduction, Logistics, & Schedule.....Page 3
- Check Out Procedures & Homework Policy.....Page 4
- Application Process.....Page 4-5
- Student BehaviorPage 6
- Student Behavior Contract.....Page 7

Vision

Edge Academy is designed to provide extended learning experiences for students in 4th and 5th grades at Lincoln Elementary. This educational enhancement opportunity provides gifted and high-ability learners a day of instruction per week, outside of their regular LES classroom setting, with peers of similar ability. The mission of Edge Academy is to focus on core academic standards while fostering students' creativity, critical thinking and leadership skills. Students will be engaged in challenging project-based learning opportunities integrating science, social studies, art, engineering, literacy, and math.

Edge Academy Staff and Support Team

Superintendent: Tim Schlosser

Chief Academic Officer: Shelina Smith

District Gifted & Talented Coordinator: Jennifer Sheffield

Instructional Supervisor: LeAnn Fisher

Edge Academy Teachers: Jennifer Sheffield & Dianne Wade

District GT Support Team:

Leah Wood (FSHS)

Derrick Perdue (FSMS)

Kim Whitney (LES)

Stacy Vaughn (SES)

Lori Bean (FES)

Dianne Wade (Elementary GT Resource Teacher)

Justin Mitchell (GT Resource Teacher, FSMS)

April Marlin

Krista Jackson

Introduction

Edge Academy is located near the Franklin Simpson High School campus in a facility that shares space with Simpson County Technology Department. The Edge Academy classroom is located in a makerspace that currently houses a 3D Printer, an X-Carve CNC machine, class sets of Chromebooks and iPads, a Virtual Reality cart, Spheros, Ozobots, and a variety of other technology, construction, and creative resources.

Teachers who are state-certified in Gifted and Talented education provide instruction for Edge Academy students two days a week (4th-graders on Tuesdays and 5th-graders on Wednesdays). The classroom space is reserved for Edge Academy classes on those two days, and is then made available for makerspace and instructional collaboration opportunities on Thursdays and Fridays, providing equitable access to all students in the Simpson County School district.

Logistics

Edge Academy students are transported by bus to/from Lincoln Elementary to Edge Academy in the morning and afternoon on their scheduled day. Edge Academy students may choose to bring their own lunch or receive a lunch from the Franklin-Simpson High School cafeteria. Students who participate in Edge Academy also have a brain break period (recess) scheduled in their day.

Edge Academy Daily Schedule - Sample

8:15	Bus leaves LES for Edge
8:20	Students arrive at Edge
8:20 - 9:00	Critical-Thinking, Creativity & Community-Building
9:00 - 10:30	Math/Science Core Content
10:30 - 10:45	Morning Journal
10:45 - 12:00	Literacy, Culture & Communication
12:00	Lunch - walk to F/S High School
12:30	Brain Break
1:00 - 2:20	Exploration Labs
2:20	Student Reflection
2:30	Dismissal back to LES

Early Check-Out Procedures:

Making good use of every very minute of instructional time during the school day is critical. When instructional time is missed it impedes student achievement and decreases the probability of academic success. Lincoln Elementary School's regular instructional day occurs from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. According to the state law, if a child checks out of school before 3:00 p.m. or arrives after 8:00 a.m., he or she will be counted tardy. All students arriving late or leaving early during their Edge Academy day (8:20 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.) must be signed in or signed out at Edge Academy by a parent or authorized adult. Staff at Edge Academy will contact LES to report sign-in or sign-out activity to the attendance clerk.

Homework:

There will be no regular homework assignments from Edge Academy unless students choose to independently work on long-term projects or other tasks. Students will not be responsible for making up daily work from their classes at LES while attending class at Edge Academy. However, if long-term projects are assigned at LES to students on a day they are attending Edge Academy, students are still responsible for completing those assignments. Student(s) must maintain sufficient academic progress at LES while enrolled at Edge Academy. If a student begins to regress in his/her core classes at LES, a meeting with the Edge Academy teacher and the Chief Academic Officer will be held to discuss the best educational placement for that particular student.

Application Process:

Students demonstrating high academic achievement across multiple assessment measures (pg. 5) are invited to complete an application for admission while at Simpson Elementary in the spring of their 3rd-grade year, prior to entering 4th grade. If a new student enrolls at Lincoln Elementary after the initial application window, he/she may be invited to apply to attend Edge Academy if assessment data meets criteria for admission and an open spot is available. Permission must be granted by parents for students to complete the application process. Students are not required to apply and/or attend Edge Academy - it is an optional academic enrichment program.

The student application consists of the following components:

- Writing Prompt
- Hands-On Application Task
- Parent Survey
- Teacher Survey

Students' Edge Academy applications are submitted to the District Gifted and Talented Committee for review. Students are notified of admission status in late May/early June immediately following the end of the school year, unless applying for a mid-year opening.

Participating students begin attending Edge Academy during the second full week of school in August. Students who enroll in Simpson County after the beginning of the school year and qualify to attend Edge Academy based on the selection criteria below will be considered for placement if an opening occurs. Acceptance to the program will be dependent upon student assessment criteria, advisement from previous school district, teacher input, and a final review of application by the District Gifted and Talented Committee. If the student is accepted, his/her date of entrance to Edge Academy will be determined by the classroom teachers and Edge Academy staff. If a student no longer wishes to participate they will meet with the Edge Academy teacher, Mrs. Jennifer Sheffield, and have a consultation (via phone or in-person) with the Chief Academic Officer, Mrs. Shelina Smith, along with their parent or guardian.

Selection Criteria/Qualification Information

Students will be considered for selection based on review of the following criteria:

- CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test) screener and full test, if applicable. Scores within the top 25th percentile ranking, including locally-normed scores, are preferred. All students at Simpson Elementary are universally-screened using the CogAT Form 7 Screener near the completion of their 3rd-grade year.
- Previous participation in Primary Talent Pool (PTP)
- Formal identification as Gifted and Talented (Specific Academic Aptitude, General Intellectual, Creativity, Leadership) if a transfer student.
- Scores at or above the 90th percentile on at least two out of three most recent STAR Reading and/or STAR Math Assessments preferred.
- KPREP Scores for students will be referenced but will not solely qualify a student for consideration for placement at Edge Academy.
- Application materials submitted by the student.

Student Behavioral Expectations

Discipline Statement (Per Lincoln Elementary Handbook):

Students at Edge Academy are expected to act in accordance with the guidelines of the Lincoln Elementary Handbook and the Simpson County Board of Education Code of Conduct and Discipline Policies and Procedures. Positive behavior expectations for Edge Academy students are in place while students are being transported by bus, while at Edge Academy, during lunch and recess, and on field trips. The school staff intends to protect the right of each child to learn without interference or intimidation and verbal and/or physical bullying of any student will not be tolerated.



Edge Academy Student Discipline Contract

By signing this behavior contract, I state that I understand the purpose of Edge Academy is to challenge my student academically. Edge Academy students are expected to exhibit acceptable behavior in all situations. I acknowledge my student(s) will need to participate in an appropriate manner while engaged in a variety of independent, small and large group activities that include the frequent use of online technology and hands-on tools. If my student(s) has persistent behavior issues that create an unsafe environment for other students, I understand the following steps will be taken in regards to disciplinary actions:

- *Warning* - Verbal Warning from Edge Academy staff
- *1st Offense* - Parent contact and discussion
- *2nd Offense* - Parent meeting with Edge Academy administrator (Mrs. Shelina Smith, Chief Academic Officer)
- *3rd Offense* - Notice of removal from Edge Academy. Contact will be made by Mrs. Shelina Smith, CAO-Chief Academic Officer

Date

Parent Signature

Student Signature

Handbook Copy