

## Enrichment Activities

Denver Public Schools Gifted and Talented Education coordinate the enrichment activities listed below. Please note that these activities are NOT limited to identified GT or HGT students. All DPS students are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Details about all of the activities will be distributed electronically once information is finalized for the year. *Please read those emails when they arrive so you can be aware of the opportunities--and deadlines-- for these student-focused activities.* In the meantime, if you have questions about any of the activities listed, you can contact Malinda (Minda) McGurk in Gifted and Talented, 723-423-2065, [malinda\\_mcgurk@dpsk12.org](mailto:malinda_mcgurk@dpsk12.org) or the people listed in each of the activities.

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An educational program that emphasizes creativity, teamwork, and problem solving. Student teams solve open-ended, multi-disciplinary challenges and present their solutions at tournaments. Each of the six competitive team challenges has a different educational and creative focus: Technical/mechanical design, scientific exploration/theater arts, theater/literature/fine arts, improvisation, structural/architectural design, and community service. There is also a non-competitive challenge designed for students in second grade and younger that introduces students to teamwork and creative thinking. Teams are tested to think on their feet, work together and devise original solutions that satisfy the requirements of the Challenges. **Preschool-12th grade**

[Click here](#) for more information

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A highly regarded national academic program that offers students an exciting opportunity to study in depth about historical issues, ideas, people, and events. Students choose historical topics related to the annual theme and conduct extensive primary and secondary research through libraries, archives, museums, oral history interviews, and historic sites. After analyzing and interpreting their sources and drawing conclusions about their topics' significance in history, students present their work in original papers, websites, exhibits, performances, and documentaries. These products are entered into competitions in the spring at local, state, and national levels where they are evaluated by professional historians and educators. The program culminates in the Kenneth E. Behring National Contest held at the University of Maryland at College Park. **Grades 6-8**

[Click here](#) for more information about National History Day



A challenging and fun opportunity for students to participate in a rapid response general knowledge competition that promotes teamwork and enthusiasm for academics. Brain Bowl provides a framework for students to expand their classroom learning by using analysis, application, knowledge, and comprehension skills. Students from DPS compete in the Central Region, which includes metro Denver schools districts, as well as districts to the east.

[Click here](#) for more information about the Optimist Brain Bowl

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A curriculum that includes word lists, lesson plans, and bulletin board ideas as well as a series of DPS spelling competitions that helps students prepare for the Colorado State Spelling Bee held in the spring. *Schools must enroll by the October deadline in order for their students to be eligible for the Colorado State Spelling Bee.* **Grades 8 and younger.**

[Click here](#) for more information about DPS Semantics

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Young Authors' Celebration is a district-wide celebration of student writing. Each elementary school selects individual student authors of two books to attend this celebration. Books may be illustrated by the author or by one other student. Books may be fiction or nonfiction, short or long, collections of short stories or poems, etc. They must be finished products and should be bound, using any process desired. Parents and other immediate family members are invited to the celebration, which includes displays of students' books, a program, and refreshments.

[Click here](#) for more information about DPS Young Authors

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## Other Activities, not managed directly by DPS Gifted and Talented



Each spring, the Congressional Institute sponsors a nationwide **high school visual art competition** to recognize and encourage artistic talent in the nation and in each congressional district. Since the Artistic Discovery competition began in 1982, more than 650,000 high school students have participated.

Students submit entries to their representative's office, and panels of district artists select the winning entries. Winners are recognized both in their district and at an annual awards ceremony in Washington, DC. The winning works are displayed for one year at the U.S. Capitol.

[Click here](#) for more information about the Congressional Art Competition



Future Problem Solving Program International, formerly known as the Future Problem Solving Program (FPSP), aims to "engage students in creative problem solving". Founded by Dr. Eliis Paul Torrance in 1974, FPSP was created to stimulate critical and creative thinking skills and to encourage students to develop a vision for the future. FPSP features curricular and co-curricular competitive, as well as non-competitive, activities in creative problem solving. The Future Problem Solving Program International involves over 250,000 students annually from Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Portugal, New Zealand, Russia, Singapore, Great Britain, Turkey, India and the United States.

Teams in this competition are composed of no more than 4 members. Each team can compete in one of the competitive divisions. Teams compete by analyzing the provided Future Scene and completing their written "packet" or "booklet. The Future Scene is a one-page written scenario in an imagined future based on the current topic. Competitors find potential problems in the future scene based on logic and their topic research preparation. Each packet contains space for 16 challenges, an underlying problem, 16 solutions, 5 criteria, an evaluation grid, and an action plan. Each team, regardless of the division, has two hours to complete these steps in the qualifying, state, and international competitions.

[Click here](#) for more information on Future Problem Solvers



A national contest designed to encourage teachers to include geography in their classrooms, spark student interest in the subject, and increase public awareness about geography. Schools with students in grades four through eight are eligible for this entertaining and challenging test of geographic knowledge. Each registered school holds a school-level Bee to determine its one school champion, who then takes a written qualifying test that determines the top 100 students in the state who qualify for the Colorado Geographic Bee. **Grades 4-8**

[Click here](#) for more information on National Geographic Bee



Science Olympiad is a K-12 allows students to investigate science in tournaments and non-competitive events. Science Olympiad can be integrated in classroom curriculum.

[Click here](#) for more information on Science Olympiad



The Shakespeare Festival is sponsored by the Arts and Physical Education Department.

The DPS Shakespeare Festival is one of the largest student Shakespeare festivals in the country. Donning theatrical costumes, 5,000+ DPS students, grades K-12, from 75 schools attend the DPS Shakespeare Festival. The Shakespeare Festival provides a forum for students to perform sonnets and scenes from the works of Shakespeare, as well as demonstrate dance and vocal and instrumental music of Shakespeare's time. Auditions are required to take place in the DPS Shakespeare Festival.

[Click here](#) fore more information about the DPS Shakespeare Festival

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Other Activities, not sponsored by DPS



Denver Chess League is a non-profit organization with Elementary, Middle, and High School divisions.

[Click here](#) for more information on Denver Chess League.