

Xanadu Summer Program Frequently Asked Questions

Programs: Xanadu Elementary Program for rising 1st-5th grade students
Xanadu Middle/High Program for rising 6th-12th grade students

What is Xanadu?

Xanadu is a summer enrichment program for gifted and high achieving students offered by the Office of Gifted and Talented Education in Atlanta Public Schools. The program began over twenty years ago for first through fifth grade students, later adding programming for sixth through twelfth graders.

Xanadu teachers take academic content and turn it into fun and exciting ways for students to be enriched while still enjoying the sunny days of summer! Students are allowed to select their courses which are focused on academics and fine arts/athletics. Course offerings include everything from courses like “Xtreme Xperiments” where students explore the science behind lava lamps to courses like “IMPACT” where students work to make a difference in their immediate community and understand the value of their civic contributions.

Annually, the program concludes with the “BIG Show” where a student generated production is presented to parents and the community. It is always a treat and very entertaining! Xanadu has a long successful history deeply entrenched in the fabric of students’ lives from all across the city.

You may view previous productions at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GfA4DDzzjiA>.

Who is eligible to participate in the Xanadu Summer Programs?

All gifted and talented eligible/high achieving students in the metro Atlanta area who have successfully completed kindergarten through eleventh grade who also meet program criteria are eligible to participate.

I am an APS employee; my child does not attend APS. Can I enroll my child in the Xanadu Summer Programs?

Yes, children of APS employees are eligible to apply for acceptance into the program as long as they meet program criteria. Students of APS employees pay the APS student rate but do not qualify for scholarships.

Can students of APS charter schools participate in the Xanadu Summer Programs?

Yes, children of APS charter schools are eligible to apply for acceptance into the program as long as they meet program criteria. Charter students pay the APS student rate but do not qualify for scholarships.

What documents are considered for acceptance into the Xanadu Summer Programs?

Xanadu is designed for gifted and high-achieving students. Supporting documentation is required which includes a teacher or principal’s recommendation AND any one of the following which will be loaded at the time of registration:

- gifted eligibility report
- most recent test scores (For example: Milestones, MAP, STAR, or ITBS)
- most recent report card/progress report

****APS gifted identified students are not required to upload any additional documents.*

What will I need to have in hand before I begin registration?

You will need a teacher or principal’s email address so that a request can be sent for a recommendation. If your student is an APS student, you will need the student number associated with your child (this is usually your child’s lunch number and/or the number they use to log into the APS computer system.) We will not be able to provide this number. You will also need a piece of supporting documentation, referenced above, ready to be uploaded into the portal.

Email additional questions to the Office of Gifted and Talented Education at Xanadu_gifted@atlanta.k12.ga.us.

For regular updates visit: <http://www.atlanta.k12.ga.us/Gifted>

What if I need help with online registration, don't have internet access, or don't have a computer at home?

Please contact the Office of Gifted and Talented Education at (404) 802-7585 for assistance. You may also email us at Xanadu_gifted@atlanta.k12.ga.us. Our office hours are 8:00 am - 4:00 pm.

What if I do not have a method of payment for online processing?

Money orders/cashier's checks are the only acceptable forms of payment and must be made out to Atlanta Public Schools. Include the student's name in the memo section. For accounting purposes, separate elementary program payments from middle/high program payments. An in person payment schedule will be posted in alignment with the established timelines and registration dates.

When will I receive notification verifying my child's acceptance or non-acceptance into the program?

Acceptance or non-acceptance is based on the teacher or principal's recommendation, a completed application, and program criteria listed above. Notification of acceptance or non-acceptance to the program will be available in alignment with the established timelines and registration dates.

How are the instructional programs organized?

Daily instruction is a combination of academic and fine arts/athletics courses.

Can I register my child for one week in Session I and one week in Session II?

No, courses are designed as mini-courses to be taught in two consecutive weeks.

Is transportation provided to the Xanadu Summer Programs?

No, transportation is not provided. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to provide transportation.

What is the registration process for the Xanadu?

1. Specific instructions for online registration as well as a video tutorial will be provided to walk you through the online registration process. Continue to monitor the website at <http://www.atlanta.k12.ga.us/gifted> for additional information.
2. Online payment will include a **4.0% non-refundable credit card/debit card vendor processing fee**. Online School Payments is a service that is provided by OSMS and its affiliates. Other than the receipt of payments made by you (less applicable fees charged by us and the credit card company), neither the school district, the school, nor any individuals employed by the school district profit from this service.

How likely is it that my student will be placed in their 1st choice course?

Courses are assigned based on the completion of the full registration process: application, payment and course selection. Once a class is full, course placement will be based on the second choice, and possibly third choice. There is no guarantee of first choice course placement.

Can changes to classes be made once classes have been assigned?

No. A specific student teacher ratio is maintained and changing classes disturbs the ratio. Classes will not be changed once confirmation letters have been sent. Once a class is full, course placement will be based on the second choice, and possibly third choice. There is no guarantee of first choice course placement.

Is there a discount for families enrolling multiple children?

No, multi-student discounts are not available.

How do I qualify for a tuition scholarship or a payment plan if I am experiencing financial hardship?

There will be a place in the application for you to indicate financial need and/or request a payment plan. If a payment plan is requested and approved, full fee is due prior to program start date. Notification of scholarship awards and/or payment plans will be communicated in alignment with the established timelines.

Is before care available for Xanadu Summer Programs?

Yes, before care is available. Before care begins at 7:00 am for a drop-in fee of \$5.00 per student/per day.

Is after care available for Xanadu Summer Programs?

Yes, after care is available. After care is sponsored by Preferred School Care. After care begins at 3:00 pm and ends at 6:00 pm daily. The fee for after care is \$65.00 per week or a drop-in fee of \$15.00 per day. Preferred School Care is a private entity and accepts all forms of payment for their services. Atlanta Public Schools only accepts money orders and cashier's checks. The after care program focuses on technology, visual arts, fitness and character education. If you have additional questions please contact Preferred School Care. After care program participants will receive an afternoon snack.

Are school meals provided for Xanadu Summer Programs?

The school meal program operates on site during the program. Atlanta Public School students and its charter school students eat breakfast and lunch at no charge during the program regardless of meal status during the academic year. Non APS students will be required to pay for meals at a rate of \$4 for each lunch and \$1.50 for each breakfast. Students will not be permitted to charge meals. Parents will be contacted in the event a student requires a meal but funds are not provided.

What is the policy regarding cancellation?

Cancellation request(s) must be made in writing in alignment with the established timelines and registration dates. No refunds will be made after the communicated date.

- If you paid online, you will receive a full refund **minus** the credit card/debit card vendor processing fee.
- If you paid cash/money order in person, you will receive a full refund minus a \$30.00 processing fee per child.

To cancel your registration, email a letter of cancellation to Xanadu_Gifted@atlanta.k12.ga.us. Include your child's name, the program registered for, and reason for cancellation. Please allow 15 days for refund processing. All refunds are in the form of a check that must be picked up in the Office of Gifted and Talented. Please bring identification when picking up your refund.