Reis, S. M., Gentry, M., & Park, S. (1995). *Extending the pedagogy of gifted education to all students* (Research Monograph 95118). University of Connecticut, The National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented. https://nrcgt.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/953/2015/04/rm95118.pdf

Sample Enrichment Cluster Offerings

Young Aviators Flight School ***Grades 2–5***

Join Paul Varga and explore the dynamics of flight. Learn about forces that cause changes in air pressure, lift, thrust, drag, and gravity. A possible field trip to the local airport will provide a close-up view of airplanes. Paul is a flight instructor and has been flying for over 10 years, and has had an interest in aviation since he was in elementary school.
10 weeks

Puppeteers Workshop ***Grades K–5***

So you want to be a puppeteer? Learn how to create several different types of puppets, such as finger puppets, hand puppets, marionettes, and more. Experiment and develop your own character. Help write, direct, or star in a puppet show, and bring your puppet to life in a performance! Join puppeteers Ms. Baker and Ms. Bonet.
10 weeks

The Young Scientists' League ***Grades 2–5***

Explore the world of chemistry and volcanoes with Philip Insalaco. Make predictions and conduct experiments, and discover the dynamics of a volcano, and what happens when one erupts. You will have the opportunity to construct your own volcano, using wire mesh, wood and papier mâché, and create "lava" using a chemical reaction with two kitchen ingredients! Wear old clothes or bring a smock.
10 weeks

League of Engineers ***Grades 1–5***

Have you ever wondered how a skyscraper or a bridge is built? Using blocks, you will have the opportunity to explore balance, construction, design and representation to create structures found in cities of the world. First grade teacher Mrs. Elliot has made blockbuilding part of her curriculum for several years, and has found that students can learn about math, science, social studies, etc. through block play. She will be working with 4th grade teacher Ms. Bentley.
5 or 10 weeks

The NASA Exploratory Group ***Grades K–3***

Are you curious about asteroids, stars and planets? Come discover the solar system and the field of astronomy with Roxanne Hosking, an earth science educator and assistant director at Eastern Connecticut State University's new planetarium. Examine NASA clips of the comet hit on Jupiter, learn about the evolution of the solar system, design your own "planetarium," learn what it is like to be a space explorer, and more. You will discover all that a planetarium offers, and may have the opportunity to visit one and view a night sky during the day!
10 weeks

Forest and Wildlife Biologists Society ***Grades 3–5***

Explore the world of the biologist! With UConn natural resources student Kevin O'Shea you might build a birdhouse, search for bones in a pellet coughed up by an owl, assemble the bones, examine real skulls and skins, search for wildlife outside, learn the basics of identifying trees, and more! Background material for this cluster will come from James Goodwin State Forest.
10 weeks

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Invention Convention ***Grades 2–5***

Are you an inventive thinker? Would you like to be? Brainstorm a problem, try to identify many solutions, and design an invention to solve the problem. Create your invention individually or with a partner under the guidance of Bob Erikson and his colleagues, who work at the Connecticut Science Fair. You may share your final product at the Young Inventors' Fair on March 25, a statewide day-long celebration of creativity.
5 weeks

The Young Archaeology Association ***Grades 2–5***

Step back in time 100 million years and explore the world of dinosaurs with staff from Dinosaur State Park, 2nd grade teacher Ms. Grenier, and parent Uta Johnson. Learn about geologic time, invertebrate fossils and fossil plants, how fossils are formed, and how archaeologists uncover these mysteries. Possibly create your own casts, "dig" for fossils in plaster, and more.
5 weeks

The Chimers Handbell Choir ***Grades 4&5***

This cluster is for those who enjoy music! This group will travel to St. Joseph's Church to learn how to create the beautiful music of handbells. Students will get the opportunity to participate in a group choir and learn how to operate the handbells with the goal of a group performance for the school. Join Angela Riccardo Salcedo, Music Director & Organist at the Congregational Church. She will be assisted by Reading Teacher Marsha Creese, who plays in the handbell choir at the Congregational Church, and School Nurse Mari Shooks, who plays in the handbell choir at St. Joseph's.
5 weeks

Natural Resources Conservation Service ***Grades 2–5***

Do you know where your next meal will come from? Most of us are not farmers, but here is your chance to learn about the soil, the rain, and the machines needed to grow our food. Come join local scientists Joyce Meader, Liz Rogers and others from the Cooperative Extension Service at UConn as you investigate hydrology, engineering, the science of soil, planting equipment, and finally the resulting food.
5 weeks

The Colonial Artists Workshop ***Grades 2–5***

Step back in time and experience how the early settlers of Colonial America lived! Each week you will explore different topics of Colonial life. Experiment with crafts that were a part of everyday life, such as candlemaking, stenciling, quilting, relief printing, or weaving. Join parent and local historian Bev York, paraprofessional Ms. Treend, and 5th grade teacher Ms. Sansom. Wear old clothes or bring a smock.
5 weeks

The Science of Power ***Grades K–5***

What are our sources of energy? What can we do to conserve energy? Explore electricity and learn about amps, voltage, circuits, alternating current and direct current. You will also investigate the sun and water as sources of energy and how this energy is captured and directed for many uses. Join Joyce Burdick from CL&P as you explore energy and energy conservation.
5 weeks