



2023 MCGT Conference Children's Program Class Descriptions

Fantastical Frogs (½ day, morning and afternoon sessions)

Grades K-2

Join us in the rainforest and discover the bright and beautiful world of dart frogs! In this class, you will learn all about dart frogs, including how to identify a dart frog, its hopping life cycle, and which rainforests these frogs inhabit. You will also build a replica of a vivarium, a model of a dart frog's habitat. Ms. Walsh will be your guide for observing actual, live dart frogs.

Instructor: Katie Walsh has been a teacher for 20 years and is the co-owner of Finn's Frog Farm, a family-owned and operated business that focuses on capitative breeding of tree frogs and dart frogs. She is passionate about education, frogs, and photography.

Mythical Creatures (½ day morning session)

Grades K-2

Wanted: Creative Minds! Discover mythical creatures and where they originated around the world: unicorns, dragons, chimeras, and more! We will read fantastical stories about various fabled beings, then create our own legendary ones using geometric shapes. What's your story about the creature you create? Consider all types of environments. Does it thrive in water, or fly among the stars? Does it communicate with song, a new language, or ultrasonic sound undetectable to the human ear? Let imagination be your guide as we interact to share tales of our newly minted, famed beings. What superpower does your creature have to problem solve and co-exist in the bubble of life?

Instructor: Kayla Dittenhauser teaches elementary ESL in Minneapolis, MN. She holds a Masters in Education from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. In her free time, she likes to bake, read, and play with her pets, Carlita (chihuahua) and Cannoli (cat).

What's Your Game? (½ day, afternoon session)

Grades K-2

Strictly strategy to win, or team cooperation to problem solve and reach a goal? Meet new friends and use skill and luck to play! Join us for an opportunity to get lost in different games and activities. Play board games like chess that challenge your mind, build a magnificent marble run, solve mind-melding puzzles, or play card games like Uno and Skipbo just for fun and camaraderie.

Instructor: For more than 30 years, Gaye Guyton has been creating joyful learning opportunities for gifted elementary students in Eastern Carver County schools. Gaye's primary goal is for students to love learning. She has found that when students create community, focused on meaningful human values and common goals, they find belonging and joy in shared experiences. Whether teaching math in Malawi or games in Minnesota, Gaye's favorite part of teaching is the students.

Science and Illusion (all day session)

Grades 3-5

At first glance, some scientific phenomena appear to happen magically. But it's not really magic, right? Using the tools of science, we ask good questions and run experiments to discover what's really happening. Using the tools of magic, we present the phenomenon so that it appears that we possess magical powers. Topics covered include magnetism, buoyancy, optical illusions, light, and color.

Instructor: Peter Hoh teaches science in informal educational settings such as museums, libraries, and after-school programs. A former schoolteacher, he likes to design hands-on activities that engage curiosity and encourage creativity. He is part of the team that launched the Saint Paul Tool Library, where he continues to play an active role.

You're On!: IMPROV (all day session)

Grades 4-7

Acting without a script? It's easier than you think! In Intro to Improv, we will learn all about the wide, wonderful world of improvised theater. To foster our acting skills, we'll play a variety of wacky, fast-paced theater games, and then supplement our hands-on learning with discussion about the core skills and tactics utilized by successful improv actors. Lastly, we will work to develop the confidence needed to take the stage and tell a story with nothing but our wits and acting instincts!

Instructor: Hawken Paul is a Twin Cities-based actor and teaching artist. Since earning a Bachelor's of Music in Violin Performance from St. Olaf College, his teaching credits include theatre arts training classes with the Children's Theatre Company, Saturday morning classes with the Minnesota Institute for Talented Youth, and directing at Great River School.