

# CSSE Enrichment Clusters Program

## *Bringing Enrichment to ALL students!*

We are very excited to announce our **Enrichment Cluster Program** will be kicking off in February 2020. This program is a component of the Schoolwide Enrichment Model (SEM) by Joseph Renzulli, University of Connecticut. I have been fortunate to work with Renzulli in my masters work at UConn and, I have implemented this program at five schools in my career. Six of our staff attended UConn this summer studying the SEM and are ready to dive in to clusters!

Enrichment clusters are multi-age groups of students who share common interests and come together for a designated block of time to explore those interests. Rather than teaching the students, instructors *facilitate* clusters. Cluster work is driven by students to produce an authentic product or service to a real-world audience. Some clusters focus on an area of study or profession and some are learning the "how-to" of a particular skill/talent.

## Who is involved?

Every 2nd-8th grade student participates in these enriching interest-based experiences. All 2nd-8th grade teachers and specials area staff facilitate a cluster in an area of interest or expertise. Also, parents, and community can participate as well by facilitating a cluster! Mrs. Duginski will be leading our program coordination!

## How it works?

Students will view cluster advertisements choosing 4 clusters of interest and then will be placed in one of his/her four choices. They attend the same cluster for 9 weeks in 1-hour sessions engaging in real-world learning experiences. To celebrate our success, we will hold a product fair & performances for students to showcase their clusters on the last day, May 15th, to families and friends!

## Two main goals of Enrichment Clusters:

- To provide all students with opportunities, resources, and encouragement to apply their interests, knowledge, thinking skills, creative ideas, and task commitment to self-selected problems or areas of study.
- To acquire advanced-level understanding of the knowledge and methodology used within particular disciplines, artistic areas of expression and interdisciplinary studies. To develop authentic products, performances, or services that are directed primarily toward bringing about a desired impact on one or more targeted audiences.

### When are clusters: *Fridays 2:00-3:00*

Feb. 28th  
Mar. 6th 1:30-2:30 time change  
(Mar. 13th as a makeup date only if needed)  
Mar. 27th  
Apr. 3rd  
Apr. 17th  
Apr. 24th  
May 1st  
May 8th  
May 15th & **Showcase**

### What are sample cluster topics? *(CSSE cluster topics TBD)*

Gardening	Fitness & Health
Theatre	Watercolor, sketching, ceramics, etc)
Dance	Puppetry
Coding	Meteorology
Architectural Design	Filmmaking
Cooking	Photography
Starting a Business	Carpentry
Music Performance	Fashion Design
Speech and Debate	

## How can you get involved?

Enrichment Clusters bring talents and professions of the staff, parents, and community to CSSE students through shared interests! Check out the [2nd page](#) of this form for the many ways you can be involved! PTO has already committed a budget to help with specific needs for cluster materials! Thank you, PTO!!!

This is an exciting program for our students! We look forward to watching our eagles soar as they develop their interest and talents through Enrichment Clusters!

## Calling All Enrichment Cluster Volunteers!

We are looking forward to parents and community members being a part of our first Enrichment Cluster Mission! Below are the different ways you can get involved! Please complete this form and return it to the office **by January 17th**. Be sure to include your contact information and which areas you would like to volunteer your time and talents.

*Would you like to:*

### Lead a Cluster?

- Come share an expertise, interest, or talent by facilitating a cluster!
- You must be available each Friday to lead/facilitate the cluster (dates & times listed on the front page).
- When submitting your interest in leading a cluster please include the topic/interest area, possible learning experiences, and how you can gear the learning towards a product, performance, or cluster.

### Be a guest speaker or give a demonstration?

- Offer your time to visit with a cluster on a specific area of expertise (1-2 time visit). This may be a demonstration, performance, or speaking opportunity.
- Do you have a hobby, career, or background in an area that may be of interest in an existing enrichment cluster?

### Assist a teacher or cluster facilitator?

- Would you like to participate in Friday's clusters as an assistant to a teacher or another cluster facilitator?
- You must be available most Fridays during enrichment clusters.

### Help with preparations?

- Help in preparing nametags, lists, and materials to get us started!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_ or phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Your student: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

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We are looking forward to the success of our first round of the Enrichment Cluster Program!

Mrs. Goldsworthy, Principal: [principal@steugeneschool.org](mailto:principal@steugeneschool.org)

Mrs. Duginski, Care Team Coordinator: [careteam@steugeneschool.org](mailto:careteam@steugeneschool.org) (primary contact)