Snapshots!

Students Actively Involved in Learning
Journeys and Destinations

A look at the City of Ember – using the literature web for analysis. Students explore the concept of change and how it affects people and their relationships, as well as the world around them.
Archeology

3rd grade GT students from Ladson and Corcoran elementary schools have been studying archeology. Archeologist Dr. Newhard from the College of Charleston came and shared information on what archeologists do and how digging a site is done in the field.
Caesar’s English

Students break out of the confines of age-graded vocabulary with Caesar’s English. Each week, students build their vocabulary with words chosen from famous literary names, such as Defoe, Milton, Morrison, and Shelley. Fifty Latin stems provide an intellectual key for young students to understand big words. The experience subtly develops a sense of anticipation of authors these elementary students will read in the future.

Students working on Latin and Greek Stems
Gifted and talented students and those with high abilities need gifted education programs that will challenge them in regular classroom settings and enrichment and accelerated programs to enable them to make continuous progress in school.

*Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer* - The Prosecutors preparing their arguments in our mock trial...
Below: William’s smartboard presentation. 3rd Graders read “The Green Book” and researched a planet of their choice and create an imaginary creature that could adapt to life on that planet.

MCT Latin Stems:
Students are creating a game based on their Latin Books.

St. Andrews Elementary
Trebuchet Challenge!
Don’t call it a catapult. It’s a trebuchet.
A miniature medieval-style launching devices

Students learning about the Trebuchet Competition. It is the perfect mix of fun and learning that will inspire some of the nation’s future innovators while helping South Carolina fill a growing number of positions that need scientists, engineers and mathematicians.
Hursey Elementary began an afterschool computer programming class for its GT students. Under the supervision of GT teacher Lara Kessler the students work within the Scratch programming website. They are learning to write and manipulate codes and are also examining already created games and unpacking the programming and even remixing what was previously created!
Analyzing Grammar!
Gifted fourth graders debate the type of phrase in a sentence during Four-level Grammar Analysis. Four level analysis comes from Michael Clay Thompson and is used throughout our elementary GT classrooms for in-depth grammar study.

Identifying a prepositional phrase.
In the novel, City of Ember, students learn that the “builders” did not include batteries in the supplies. My students researched and tested out a variety of methods to create light based on what supplies the citizens of the city would have been able to access. Ultimately they decided on hydroelectric power.
Students are inventors...Using only a coat hanger and 3 materials they had to create a new product as well as an advertisement to market the product to their intended consumers.

Solomon created (and sewed) the ball holder for baseball.

Basel created a birdhouse!

Annie’s apple holder (for teachers)!

Arden sewed an old tee shirt and used 2 cup holders...it has multi functions but my favorite was the pen holder.
GT elementary students use Mentoring Mathematical Minds as the curriculum for math. In this picture a student is working on a think deeply question using the fraction strips created previously to help students have a solid conceptual understanding of fractions. This lesson from Treasures in the Attic helps students understand equivalent fractions from a conceptual standpoint before looking into algorithms.
Thinking like a scientist, students learn about the Wright Brothers, and airplanes. The challenge – make a paper airplane that will fly the farthest. Time to talk about flight dynamics.
Students work on patterns and sequences. Some of these patterns repeat and others are growing patterns. Some use numbers and others use letters and geometric shapes. Our young mathematicians apply their new knowledge of algebraic reasoning.
St. Christopher

Students explored the estuary, saw first hand environmental issues, investigated in the mud, learned how we can advocate for the environment, etc.

We are currently working to create inventions or programs that help solve environmental problems. These include inventions/positions for endangered sea turtles, littering, cutting down trees, etc.
Students learning about George Washington Carver and how his research and creative uses of the peanut are still used today.
Creative thinking and problem-solving are essential parts of the design process to turn ideas into innovation and break the barriers against creativity.

S - substitute
C - combine
A - adapt
M - modify
P - put to another use
E - eliminate
R - reverse
Inventors activity – the Egg Drop.

Student scientist have to design a device with given parameters (height, materials, and real eggs) to protect the eggs upon landing. The Fire Department helps out with the safety of using the ladders. The designs are simply amazing!
How Big Is Big?

Understanding and Using Large Numbers

“Thinking like a mathematician” makes students fully aware of the kinds of thinking and processes they are going to engage in while working, talking, and writing.

Talented students, in particular, should have the opportunity to become creative problem solvers and creative problem posers.
Focus on Culture Study

Studying other cultures helps to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.
What’s Going On With Our Beaches? Where Does All the Sand Go?

Due to the high energy "washing" effect of ocean and bay waves, soil, as we are accustomed to thinking of it, is swept away. Where vegetation, such as sea grass, can get a foothold in the, dry, unfertile sand, the windblown sand grains get batted down to the base of the plant and the sand surface incrementally rises, one grain at a time.

Real world investigation on erosion by experimenting on sea grasses to find out which prevented erosion the best.
Latin and Greek stems (using etymology, not memorization) are presented as a system of thinking, a way of building, analyzing, spelling, pronouncing, using, and choosing words.

In consequence students will know far more than the list of words encountered in these lessons—the tens of thousands of words which are not listed, but which are expressions of the system.
Rules of Grammar

Just like any sports game, you cannot play the reading and writing game without learning the rules. Grammar study provides the rules.

Four level analysis actively engages students as they dissect the sentence and the parts of speech, subject/predicate, and subject complements or direct objects. Students continue to build on their foundations in grammar with phrases and clauses.

Students working on parts of speech and parts of a sentence.
Literature Web

The literature web really allows students to analyze deeply a chapter from *Flush*. They had to find key words, analyze the structure of the chapter, describe images in the chapter, and examine how a character felt in that chapter as well as how the student felt when reading that chapter to analyze different points of view.
Chain Gang

Chain Gang lesson from M3 where students have to put together a paper chain and see if they could beat the world record based on if they kept a constant rate. In this lesson, students model and solve contextualized problems from everyday situations using tables and graphs to look for patterns of constant change.
Kindergarten students are **thinking and acting like mathematicians** while measuring. Through discussion students came to the conclusion that they should measure by leaving no gaps, having no overlaps, and laying their measuring tools end to end.

Students explore measuring with tools that are different lengths and decide why it is important to use equal-sized units while measuring objects.

Students also explore the inverse relationship between the size of the unit and the number of units it will take to measure the object.