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# Mountain Island Lake Academy TD Newsletter

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## "Welcome to MILA!!"

Hello Parents, Guardians and Students!! Thank you for reading this newsletter to stay informed about all that is going on in the Talent Development Department. We are so glad that you and your child are a part of the Mountain Island Lake Academy family for the 2016-2017 school year. With that said, there is a great deal of work we have to do to get ready and stay ready for success, so we need all hands on deck and willing to help!

## "Introducing Ms. Ramseur"

Ms. Ramseur is very excited to be the new Talent Development Catalyst Teacher. She received her Bachelors of Arts Degree in Educational Studies and Psychology from Belmont Abbey College. She also received her Masters of Education Degree from University of Phoenix. She is currently pursuing another Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction at Gardner-Webb University. She has been teaching for five years and is happy to be a part of your child's learning family at Mountain Island Lake Academy. She is a North Carolina native and has lived in Charlotte since 2005. Her favorite color is purple. She enjoys shopping and spending time with family and friend. She absolutely loves music! Music is a great passion that she has. She is looking forward to having an amazing year with your child, growing them and preparing them for success. Feel free to contact her with any questions or concerns at [shellys.ramseur@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:shellys.ramseur@cms.k12.nc.us) or via her website at [www.msramseurclass.weebly.com](http://www.msramseurclass.weebly.com)



## "What's In Store For Your Child?"

This school year, the TD Department will be utilizing the Catalyst Model for instructional practices for learning. Per the CMS website, components of the Catalyst Model are as follows:

- **The Catalyst Program** for gifted services is based on consultation and collaboration between the talent development and classroom teachers. They work together to meet the needs of the high achieving student.
- **Will my child work with the TD teacher?**  
Students work with the TD teacher, but not on a set schedule. The classroom and TD teachers decide together how instruction is delivered. Sometimes the TD teacher works in the child's classroom or provides the classroom teacher with work for the higher achieving students, at other times the TD teacher can pull out students to work with them directly.
- **What is the gifted curriculum?**  
The **Common Core and Essential State Standards** are the basic curriculum used in every elementary school. The TD teacher helps the classroom teacher differentiate the basic curriculum by providing more in-depth, complex and/or accelerated activities for students working at a higher level.
- **Program Benefits**
  - Gifted education and general education are related, connected and integrated.
  - Out of class sessions are scheduled when needed most.
  - The pace of learning is enhanced.
  - High achieving students receive more challenging tasks within the classroom.
  - Classroom and TD teacher work together to maximize student learning.

## "Don't Forget!!"

Parents, **please make sure that your child is reading at least 30 minutes each night.** During reading, **please time your child** so that they will grow in their stamina which is the ability to read without being distracted. Our goal is to grow our students to increase their reading ability and comprehension. This takes practice, practice, practice!! **Please read with your child** as they become reading specialists. **Please ask them questions** about what they have read, the story elements, and also ask them to use their imagination to write alternate endings to their favorite stories. For students, especially in higher level grades, please allow them time to go online to complete online research of some of their favorite authors, historical events, or social and global concerns.

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### Upcoming special dates:

- **October 28th** - Quarter 1 ends
- **October 31st** - Teacher Workday (no school)
- **November 3rd - 9th** - Book Fair
- **November 8th** - Teacher Workday (no school)
- **November 11th** - Veteran's Day (no school)
- **November 23rd - 27th** - Thanksgiving Break