

## Chestnut Middle School Talented and Gifted Prospective Student Application



*Dear applicant,*

*I am so excited that you have decided to apply to Chestnut Accelerated Middle School Talented and Gifted (TAG). As the Principal of TAG, I am pleased to serve Springfield students in a challenging and supportive culture of academic excellence. TAG is a community where students are surrounded by peers and staff who are committed to creating a high caliber learning environment. Together, students develop the habits and mindset that prepare them for high achievement in Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses in high school. Our scholars become versed in the habits and requirements for entrance into colleges and universities. TAG teachers and staff empower students to sharpen their literacy, numeracy, and technological competencies to become analytical thinkers prepared for success in competitive four year colleges and universities. There is currently rolling admission to the TAG school and accepted students will fill a limited number of openings. I encourage you and your child to complete and submit this application as soon as possible. I sincerely look forward to meeting you.*

*Dr. Colleen O'Connor*

*Principal of Chestnut Middle School Talented and Gifted*

### **“EMPOWERING STUDENTS FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE”**

**Please follow the instructions within the application:**

- Review Criteria in Section 1 to ensure your student is eligible to apply and provide the documents listed**
- Fill in the basic contact information in Section 2**
- Review the essay prompts in Section 3**

**When completed please send the application to:**

**Guidance Department  
Chestnut Middle School Talented and Gifted  
355 Plainfield Street  
Springfield MA 01107**

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## SECTION ONE: CRITERIA

*Springfield students are eligible to apply to Chestnut TAG if they have:*

- *Earned Proficient or Advanced in Math and English on the MCAS assessment or earned a level 4 or 5 on the PARCC assessment*
- *Maintained attendance of 95% or better in this previous year*
- *Maintained a C+ or better in ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies in 5<sup>th</sup> grade*
- *Have fewer than 4 write ups in their 5<sup>th</sup> (or previous) grade year. The write ups must only be in the G1 category (general disruptive behavior).*

*In order for the application to be complete and your child to be considered you must:*

- *Provide one letter of recommendation from a current teacher or community sponsor*
- *Complete the short answer and essay in Section 3*
- *Complete a short math exam at Chestnut Talented and Gifted*

## SECTION 2: BASIC INFORMATION

**Parent Name:**

**Student Name:**

**Student grade level:**

**Current School:**

**If the current school is a charter school or is outside of the city of Springfield, please list a contact person (ex. Guidance counselor):**

**Is your student on an IEP or 504?:** Yes No  
If yes, please briefly describe:

## SECTION 3: ESSAY PROMPTS

***Answers for the short answer and essay prompts should be typed or legibly hand written. Short answers (Questions 1 & 2) should be no longer than 200 words and the essay (question 3) should be no longer than 500 words.***

- 1) What was your favorite novel or text that you read this year? Explain using specific details what you learned from reading the text. (200 words or less)
- 2) What do you love and what do you find challenging about math? (200 words or less)
- 3) The definition of perseverance is: "doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success". Describe a time in your life where you have had to persevere through a challenge. What did you learn from that experience? How has that experience influenced the way that you approach school? (500 words or less)