The Hofstra Gifted Academy (HGA) offers an eight-week Saturday morning program that enriches the lives of academically gifted students by expanding their scope of experience and introducing other creative outlets. Our outstanding instructors engage students with stimulating and interactive activities in mathematics, science, and the humanities, while nurturing and supporting their varied interests and abilities.

COURSE SELECTIONS
Students choose one course from each of the three sessions. The appropriate grade levels for each course precede the course title. We strongly encourage you to register your child for age-appropriate classes only.

COURSE CHANGES
If there are any course selections that you wish to change, please call 516-463-7400. We will do our best to accommodate your request.

HGA PROGRAM FEE
The HGA program fee is $485 per semester. This fee covers eight weeks of instruction and program activities. Note: A $25 early registration discount is available if you register by October 12.

DIRECTIONS TO BRESLIN HALL
From Hempstead Turnpike: Turn onto California Avenue (David S. Mack Public Safety and Information Center on the corner). After you pass Au Bon Pain on your right, enter the second parking lot on the right. Drive past the security booth to the back of the parking lot; Breslin Hall is on your right. All classes are held on the lower level.

Room Assignments
All classes are held on the lower level of Breslin Hall on Hofstra’s South Campus. Listed below are the instructors for the Hofstra Gifted Academy and their assigned rooms. Students should be dropped off at the door of their first class at 9:30 a.m. and picked up at the door of their final class at 12:30 p.m.

- Gina Beyer Room 15
- Colleen Burke Room 14
- Kathleen Gilmartin Room 26
- Larry Jones Room 12
- Christina Loccisano Room 25
- Dominique Monaco Room 18
- Amarillis Morel Room 13
- Kathy Perez Room 20
- Valerie Waxman Room 28

FIRST DAY OF CLASS
On the first day of class, please arrive at your child’s first classroom at 9:15 a.m. to pick up the student ID card. If you are unaware of the location of your child’s first class, please ask a staff member to assist you, or call 516-463-7400 prior to the first day of class.

STUDENT ID CARD
The student ID card should be worn every week so that the instructors can verify which classes the students should be in. If the ID card is lost or has incorrect course information on it, please call 516-463-7400, and we will issue a new card.

DROP-OFF and PICKUP POLICIES
All students should be dropped off by 9:30 a.m. at their first class and picked up at 12:30 p.m. at their final class. Students must be dropped off and picked up at the door of the classroom. Students are not allowed to leave the classroom without a parent/guardian. If you need to pick up your child early, please advise the instructor beforehand.

SNACKS
Please provide your child with a snack and drink. Students will take a snack break during their second class. Please DO NOT send your child with any snacks that contain peanuts.

ABSENCES
There are no make-up classes. If your child is absent, the material missed will be given to them the following week.

COURSE REGISTRATION
If your child has already been accepted to HGA, please complete the registration form, indicating your course preferences (one course per session), and return with payment to:

Hofstra Gifted Academy
Attn: Jessica Dease
Oak Street Center, 255 Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY 11549-2550

If your child has not yet been accepted to HGA, please visit ce.hofstra.edu/forms to apply.

For more information, visit ce.hofstra.edu/youth or call 516-463-7400.
Session 1 — 9:30-10:30 a.m.

K-1 STEAM
Kathleen Gilmartin, Room 26
Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM). Students learn problem solving through hands-on experiments and projects as we create, build, test, and solve project-based, real-world problems through these five very important disciplines. New lessons and activities will be implemented each week for returning students.

K-1 Beginner Spanish
Amarillis Moral, Room 13
(Bienvenidos! (Welcome)! Students dive right into an introduction to the Spanish language. Topics include numbers, letters of the alphabet, holidays, days of the week, months of the year, and more. Taught through storytelling, interactive technology, and hands-on activities, students learn how to read, write, and speak Spanish, and are introduced to Spanish culture in this introductory-level course.

2-4 Architecture for All
Valerie Waxman, Room 28
The sky’s the limit in this course! Come learn about engineering and the creation of architecture from around the world. Students will be working together to create their own buildings and explore their creative thinking skills.

2-4 Survival of the Fittest
Colleen Burke, Room 14
Have you ever wondered why panda bears don’t live on Long Island? Wouldn’t it be cool if they did? In this course, we will be exploring different habitats and the animals that live there. Each week we will be studying the amazing adaptations that allow animals to survive in different environments. We will also be diving into the mind of Charles Darwin and examining evolution. Students will have a great time in our adaptation exploration!

3-5 America: From Revolution to World Wars
Christina Loccisano, Room 25
Students explore the wars that shaped America from the Revolutionary War to World War II. This course will focus on the causes and effects of each war. In addition, students will be introduced to new technology of the time that shaped each war. Last, we will analyze how America has changed because of each war.

4-6 Drama Zone!
Kathy Perez, Room 20
This course will develop the young actor. Students will learn to use their imagination to connect with a character, how to use movement and space to communicate effectively, and to develop an authentic expression of a character: Authentic technique, improvisation, and elements of Commedia dell’Arte will be used to develop the actor’s craft. Students will be set on fire with the joy of performance.

5-8 Mystery, Murder and More
Larry Jones, Room 12
On this eventful journey through contemporary literature, the mystery is the most popular. This is attributed to the fact that the world’s best selling novel is a Stephen King novel. In this course we will dive into the amazing worlds created by famous mystery writers as Edgar Allan Poe, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (Sherlock Holmes), Dame Agatha Christie, Shirley Jackson, O. Henry, and the aforementioned King. Our objective will be for each student to write one or more original mystery novels.

5-8 History of the Middle Ages
Dominique Monaco, Room 18
Throughout the Middle Ages, the world was a time of extreme wealth as well as extreme poverty. We will look at how historians and investigate why events during this period happened as they did, and we will gain historical thinking skills in the process. We will analyze the mistakes and successes of the Middle Ages and discuss the ways by which we can learn from these events.

6-8 Corporate Roles and Responsibilities
Gina Bayer, Room 15
Ever thought about a career in CFO? Do you want to know the difference between a CEO, CFO, and COO? Each week we will explore the roles and responsibilities of the most powerful professionals in any industry. And we will learn about some of our countries’ most well-known executives, the good and the bad.

Session 2 — 10:30-11:30 a.m.

K-1 Space Exploration
Kathleen Gilmartin, Room 26
Are you space nut? Do you want to be space expert? In this class, students have the opportunity to explore each planet in-depth. Students will analyze, compare, contrast, and learn important facts about all eight planets, including the dwarf planet Pluto. Get ready for an outer space experience. 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1…BLAST OFF!

K-1 From Head to Toe
Valerie Waxman, Room 28
What is the largest organ in our body? What are our nails and hair made of in this course, we are going to discover how we see, feel, and hear the world around us. We will be exploring visual, hands-on activities to explore who we are and how our bodies grow and develop through our senses.

2-4 Let’s Explore Writing
Christina Loccisano, Room 25
In this course students will learn structure of various nonfiction writing genres. In this course, students will learn how to write compare and contrast essays, persuasive essays, opinion essays, research papers, and expository writing. Students will focus on the skills necessary to be a successful nonfiction writer.

2-4 Conversational Spanish
Amarillis Moral, Room 13
(Bienvenidos! (Welcome)! Students with an interest in learning the Spanish language will enjoy this fun and exciting course. Topics covered include an introduction to conversations, verbs, popular phrases, and Spanish culture. Students create their own illustrated books written in Spanish and present them to family and friends during the final class.

2-4 Introduction to Algebra
Colleen Burke, Room 14
Students will be introduced to the world of algebra by taking part in group and individual learning. This course will offer weekly branstorming, word puzzles, jigsaw, and games that will study the branch of mathematics that deals with the finding of the unknown number from given information. Students should have knowledge in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

3-5 The Symbolic and Surreal
Larry Jones, Room 12
Fantasy is the fuel for imaginative response and expression for a majority of young artists. This class will employ a multidisciplinary approach to the genre. For fiction, we will look for magical realism, modern masters as J.R.R. Tolkien and E. B. White, in poetry, Lewis Carroll, in painting, caricase by Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dalí and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and in music, David Bowie’s song ‘Space Oddity’.

4-6 It’s Up For Debate
Kathy Perez, Room 20
Have a debate instead of a quarrel. Students will learn effective debate strategies and logic to help in future decision-making. Students will choose topics, write speeches, and debate in a logical manner. Lake! Our first most consideration is students will be able to discuss those qualities that yield credibility and enlightenment to the symbol and surreal.

5-8 History of the 20th Century American Presidents
Dominique Monaco Room 18
(“The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.” What does this famous quote from a speech? If you don’t know why this quote was so powerful, you may need to take a closer look at the presidents of the 20th century, such as Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and John Fitzgerald Kennedy.) In this class, we will learn about how presidents shaped our country’s history, and the election process that they went through to become our nation’s leader.

6-8 Investments 101
Gina Bayer, Room 15
Stocks and bonds and hedge funds, oh my! Here, we will explore not only the reasons for investing but also the basics of different types of investment options. From savings to index funds, we’ll cover a new investment instrument each week. We’ll learn about how demographic trends, timing, and risk profiles can all influence whether or not you invest and how you invest.

Session 3 — 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

K-1 If You Give a Kid a Pencil
Kathleen Gilmartin, Room 26
In this course, we will be reading books from the beloved series If You Give A… by Laura Numeroff. We will read all of the books in the series and students will have the opportunity to explore their creative side by writing their own book, based on the series. We will be working on concepts such as sequencing, predicting, reality versus fantasy, and more. At the end of the semester, the students will have a chance to read their final book to the class.

K-1 Curious Continents
Valerie Waxman, Room 28
Travel to far off lands from the North Pole to the South Pole in this course. Students will be creating, exploring, and discovering animals, climates, and different ways of life with virtual videos and hands-on activities.

2-4 Under the Sea
Colleen Burke, Room 14
Oceans cover the majority of earth’s surface. Let’s dive in and explore! In this course, students will become mini marine biologists, while studying numerous sea creatures and their varied environments. Students will also observe the wonders of what it takes to survive in the miscellaneous ocean and even get the chance to create their own marine creature!

2-4 International Money
Christina Loccisano, Room 25
Students gain an understanding of international currencies through hands-on lessons that compare and contrast U.S. currency values and characteristics from different countries.

4-6 Public Speaking
Kathy Perez, Room 20
An introduction to effective public values. Students will learn the importance of speaking in public, making presentations, dealing with fear, and strategies to engage an audience.

4-6 The Bard for Beginners
Larry Jones, Room 12
Elementary school students are often quite apprehensive about the prospect of studying Shakespeare, because they’ve heard that “it’s hard.” Or “Shakespeare is boring.” This course will seek to dispel those notions by incorporating adaptations and illustrations alongside original texts of three plays: the farce, Midsummer Night’s Dream, and Macbeth, and centered around the 21st-century Midsummer Night’s Dream. Students will participate in staged readings of selected scenes, and be encouraged to write their own version of them.

6-8 Critical Thinking
Dominique Monaco, Room 18
The purpose of this course is to sharpen your ability to think effectively. Critical thinking helps us to understand ourselves and the world around us more clearly. We may use our critical thinking skills in a wide range of situations, from identifying and correcting problems on a national or global scale, to achieving our personal goals. Critical thinking enables us to solve problems and to make the best choices in our academic, professional, and personal lives. Effective thinking teaches us to pay close attention to detail, weigh the pros and cons in every situation, and make decisions based on information that has been collected. We learn to take responsibility for the world and how we behave in it.

6-8 Conversational Spanish
Amarillis Moral, Room 13
(Bienvenidos a la clase de español!) This course offers students a great introduction to the Spanish language. The focus of the class is to increase the student’s ability to use Spanish through the four language functions: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The class also helps prepare students for the Language Proficiency Examination that they are required to take at the end of the year. Some topics include greetings, culture, grammar, travel expressions, foods, and much more.

6-8 Online Selling and Marketing
Gina Bayer, Room 15
We will learn about the history of advertising from radio broadcasts, posters, newspapers, and magazines, through television, the internet, and now targeted advertising through your smartphone. We will cover topics such as selling through websites, service reviews, sponsorship and influencers, and the use of social media. Finally, we’ll develop our own plan for the next generation of marketing.