

Dear Student,

We are sure that you and your parents are very proud of your accomplishment and invitation to join GMP! We would be pleased to have you join us!

Before you do, we would like you to think seriously about the challenges that you might come across as a GMP student. **The decision about whether or not to come to GMP is YOUR decision.**

We will describe the challenges here. Please read carefully.

1. A GMP day is a long day. You'll get home from your day on Monday and Wednesday near 7 p.m.
2. Homework will be harder than at your school, so you can't count on doing it quickly in the car or in homeroom. We think the homework is sometimes fun, and hope you will too, but it will take some persistence and you'll need to set aside time to do it. Try the sample homework to see what it is like.
3. We expect each student to contribute to class, which means you'll need to be prepared to explain and justify your ideas. Sometimes gifted students like to go straight to the answer. We need you to get in the habit of communicating your ideas for solutions; that includes showing work.
4. We expect students to take responsibility for resolving all questions on homework and learning from the homework. Sometimes you'll need to ask for help from fellow students or from your teacher when you have difficulty.

5. Sometimes our students have some new feelings in GMP. They may get frustrated with difficult homework. They may realize for the first time that learning doesn't always just happen without effort. They might worry that they are not as smart as others in the class. They may be very uncomfortable admitting that they don't understand something. These are normal and common feelings here. Every year, our students learn to work through these feelings and succeed.

6. Grades in GMP can be lower than what you are used to at school. Most students earn grades in the 90's by putting in a solid effort. Some students earn very high grades and some earn a few points lower than they normally do in school. If the school grade goes below 85, we will talk to you and your parents to work on strategies for improvement. Most of the time this happens when students are not keeping up with homework.

7. Attendance in GMP classes is mandatory, just like at school. GMP is not an extracurricular activity. It is a school class. Most of our students don't like to miss class because they don't like getting behind. Of course, you should stay home if you are sick and we know students may miss a day for a mandatory school concert. If you miss class, you will need to take the initiative in making it up.

8. You will have a UB computer account when you come to GMP. We will expect you to use it to check on grades, assignments, and communication from teachers.

With all those challenges, why should you be a part of this program?

School can be boring for a gifted student. Our students like GMP because they want to be challenged and they choose to try to live up to their intellectual potential. Our students especially enjoy the friends that they meet here. We hope to meet you in September, but if this is not for you, that's okay too.

All the Best,
The GMP Staff