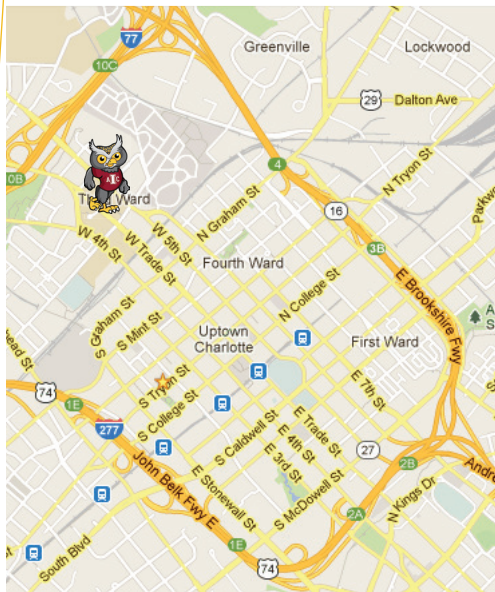


CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE!

Irwin Academic Center is CMS's only full Learning Immersion and Talent Development magnet program.

Irwin's vision is to become a model of excellence in the education of gifted and talented students. Engaging, warm and friendly, our school bustles with challenging activities for our 600 students.

Our teachers tailor instruction to meet individual needs of students. With an emphasis on student strengths, we provide academically challenging learning experiences to help children learn real-world problem solving and how to utilize higher-order thinking skills. Our location in Uptown Charlotte allows us to partner with community and cultural organizations to further enrich student learning.



School Mission Statement

Irwin strives to foster high academic achievement and the growth of creative and critical thinkers, lifelong learners, involved citizens, and 21st century problem solvers by providing a nurturing, challenging, and innovative program that engages gifted and talented students, their families, and the community.

Our Family Involvement

Family involvement is the cornerstone to the school's success as parents and community volunteers work collaboratively with Irwin's dedicated staff.

- ◆ **Irwin Life:** Highly active Parent Teacher Association, School Leadership Team, and Fund-raising committee
- ◆ **Classroom Support:** Tutoring, Room Parents, Special Event Coordination & Donations
- ◆ **Student Support:** Active involvement with homework, projects, modeling thinking, and learning progress
- ◆ **Parent Support:** Workshops include Balanced Literacy, Understanding MAP data, TD screening, Nurturing Giftedness and more

IRWIN

Academic Center



Irwin Academic Center

329 N. Irwin Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28202

Phone: 980-343-5480
Fax: 980-343-5574

Principal: Jo Shirley
Superintendent: Dr. Heath Morrison

School Hours: 8:45 am - 4:15 pm
School Mascot: Hunter the Owl
School Colors: Maroon & Gold

School Motto:
"Imagination, Innovation, Inspiration, Irwin."

CMS LI/TD Magnet Elementary School

Kindergarten – Grade 2:
Learning Immersion Program

Grades 3-5:
Talent Development &
Learning Immersion

Home of the Owls

A safe place to be a smart kid: Is Irwin a good fit for your child?

What is Giftedness?

Gifted individuals are those who demonstrate outstanding levels of aptitude (*defined as an exceptional ability to reason and learn*) or competence (*documented performance or achievement in top 10% or rarer*).
~ National Association for Gifted Children

Common Characteristics of Gifted Children

- ◆ The ability to learn rapidly
- ◆ Advanced ability in a specific field
- ◆ Able to work on complex projects
- ◆ Verbal proficiency
- ◆ Strong memory and quick recall
- ◆ Highly creative, especially pertaining to cognitive creativity, such as imagining creative or unique solutions to problems
- ◆ Comprehends on an advanced level
- ◆ Long/short attention span: may be unable to sit still when uninterested, but may spend hours engrossed in an activity of his or her own choosing
- ◆ Recognizes patterns
- ◆ Enjoys new and different challenges
- ◆ Accepts and carries out responsibilities
- ◆ Able to work in groups

Visit us on the web:

School: <http://schools.cms.k12.nc.us/irwinacademiccenterES>

PTA: irwinputa.org

Check us out on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/IrwinAcademic

SPECIAL FEATURES OF IRWIN'S MAGNET PROGRAM

WHAT WE DO

- ◆ Research-Based instructional strategies for Advanced Learners (e.g. Paideia Seminars, Multiple Intelligences Instruction)
- ◆ Classroom environments that center on a challenging and compacted curriculum with independent contracts and small group instruction
- ◆ Consistent utilization of gifted curricular resources; e.g., Junior Great Books, William & Mary, Hands-on Equations, Jacob's Ladder, interdisciplinary units

WHO WE ARE

- ◆ Exceptional teachers and teacher assistants
- ◆ Full-time Academically and Intellectually Gifted (AIG) Certified academic facilitators and magnet coordinator ensure consistent and high quality instruction
- ◆ Full time guidance counselor
- ◆ Full time technology, art, music, physical education, media, and Spanish instructors

HOW WE DO IT

- ◆ Emphasis on 21st Century Skills
- ◆ Focus on higher-order Thinking (Applying, Analyzing, Evaluating & Creating)
- ◆ Professional Development: Specialized training for teachers geared toward advanced learners

WHAT ELSE

- ◆ Weekly Spanish and technology instruction for all
- ◆ Interest-based Enrichment Clusters
- ◆ Clubs & Teams: chess, robotics, Odyssey of the Mind, Science Olympiad, National Elementary Honor Society
- ◆ Local Museum, Business & University Partnerships

IRWIN'S LEARNING IMMERSION PROGRAM

Learning Immersion (LI). All students in grades K-2 enter into our LI program, which nurtures potential giftedness. Learning Immersion is an engaging, enriched, and stimulating program designed for high-ability children. All CMS students are screened for giftedness during 2nd grade; in addition, all Irwin LI magnet school students also have the opportunity to be screened through the portfolio process. Irwin students who do not certify for TD qualify to continue in Irwin's LI program for grades 3-5.

IRWIN'S TALENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Talent Development (TD). The TD program homogeneously groups students certified gifted in grades 3-5. Talent Development at Irwin is a full-day program, and provides rigorous, academically challenging instruction using research-based strategies for gifted learners coupled with access to unique and thought-provoking curricular resources. Students learn to ask insightful questions while engaging in abstract, creative, and affective reasoning. The program's goal is to motivate students to develop a capacity to see interconnections among disciplines and attain levels of academic achievement consistent with their abilities.

TD Special Features:

- ◆ TD classroom teachers have AIG certification *or* are committed to obtaining this additional certification
- ◆ Guaranteed continuation to International Baccalaureate (IB) middle schools for TD students