



7030 N. Sacramento, Chicago Illinois 60645

Yolanda Luna-Mroz, Principal

773.534.2200 decaturclassical.org

Chelsea Branch, Administrative & Program Coordinator

Dear Parents,

Decatur Classical School is offering a unique learning opportunity for academically talented students in grades 3 through 6. In collaboration with Northwestern University's Center for Talent Development, the **Accelerated Weekend Experience (AWE)** program provides challenging, hands-on, in-depth exploration for those passionate about the subjects of technology and engineering.

The two-day AWE courses will be held at *Decatur Classical School*, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., both Saturday and Sunday. The two courses are:

Inspired Engineering: Fantastic Solutions to Everyday Challenges (grades 3-4) What is a physical task you do every day that could be easier? What gadget could you design that would make it less challenging? Armed with everyday materials, creativity and the engineering design process, students develop innovative solutions to daily tasks. Young engineers explore complex kinetic systems inspired by Rube Goldberg, and seek inspiration in art, music and literary characters to expand their understanding of problem-solving. Students collaborate to design, build, test and revise solutions in this project-based class.

Building the Future: Engineering & Design (grades 5-6) How is the expansive roof of a stadium supported, and why don't we see skyscrapers built out of wood? Why are some bridges low and flat, while others reach for the clouds? In this project-based course, young engineers investigate how different materials and structural shapes affect the design process, and learn about the budgetary and aesthetic considerations that affect any project. Armed with everyday materials, creativity and the principles of engineering, students develop innovative solutions to a variety of engineering challenges.

High-ability students often need and want additional challenge to augment their schoolwork. With many activities to juggle it can be difficult to commit to an out-of-school program that may last weeks or longer. The concentrated Accelerated Weekend Experience is an excellent option and we are pleased to make this opportunity available.

Eligibility guidelines and the online application are on the CTD website at www.ctd.northwestern.edu/sep/program/awe.

Tuition and fees total \$265 for each 2-day course, and financial aid is available – see website for details.

Questions about the program can be addressed to ctd-enrichment@northwestern.edu . If you have questions regarding costs or tuition payment options, please contact Ms. Luna at yeluna@cps.edu.

Sincerely,

Yolanda Luna Mroz