

Ferguson-Florissant Probe Program F.A.Q

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the Probe Program & how does it work?

Probe is a pull-out gifted services program for grades 2-5 held at Wedgwood Sixth Grade Center. Students who meet state and district criteria will attend the program one day each week. The program is designed to meet the academic needs of fast learners while supporting their social & emotional development.

What should I tell my child?

At Probe, we tell our students that they are fast learners. Since they learn classroom skills faster than some other students, school can become easy. Probe will provide opportunities for their brains to be challenged. Our goal is to provide more and different challenges than they receive in the traditional classroom to strengthen their thinking skills. Sometimes these activities will be difficult or frustrating, but that is when your child will know they are learning the most.

How will my child get to and from Probe?

Students are picked up by a district bus at their home school and transported to Probe. Grades 3 - 5 will arrive at 9:00 a.m. and depart at 2:00 p.m, while second-grade schools arrive at 9:30 a.m. and depart at 2:00pm. Homeschool parents can drop off their children at the start time for their child's grade level. Please join the pickup line after our buses have arrived, or park in our lot near our entrance.

If your child is late, you will need to go to the front entrance of Wedgwood.

If your child attends a school outside of our district boundaries, transportation will be the responsibility of the parent or guardian. Our boundary maps can be viewed [here](#).

What if my child is late or misses the Probe bus?

You are welcome to transport your child directly to the Probe Program. We are located at 14275 New Halls Ferry Road, Florissant, MO 63033. It is your responsibility to contact the home school and let them know that your child went directly to the Probe Program. If you do not contact the home school, your child may be marked absent.

Are uniforms required for Probe?

We are adhering to Ferguson-Florissant's uniform policy. Students who attend a FFSD school or are homeschooled will be required to wear their district-approved uniform to attend Probe. Students who attend a non-public school will be able to wear their uniform from that school. You can read more about the district's uniform policy [here](#). Students who choose not to wear a uniform to their homeschool should not board the Probe bus.

Are clear book bags required for Probe?

The district requires clear bookbags for all students K-12. Information about clear book bags can be found on the following link: [Clear Book Bags](#)

What about lunch?

Lunch and recess are both provided for our Probe students. Please remind your student to bring appropriate outdoor weather attire to Probe. Students are offered a free meal through a grant so there is no charge to families. Students may also bring lunch if they prefer. Lunch menus are available online at [Food Services / Menus](#).

My child takes medicine, what should I do?

A student is allowed to turn in prescription medicine to the school nurse. All medicine should be accompanied by a medical release from parents so that the medications may be taken on the premises as prescribed. Students are not allowed to carry their medications with them while at school. At Probe, we would like to keep the necessary medications in our building. Transporting medication to and from homeschool on the bus is not feasible. We recognize that this can be a financial burden; please contact us if this is a concern. You can call the Wedgwood nurse at (314) 831-4551.

What if I need to take my child out early?

If necessary, you may pick your child up before 2:00 at 14275 New Halls Ferry Road, Florissant, MO 63033. If you know you will be picking up early, please notify the Probe office at (314) 831-4551 or send an email to mlyles2@fergflor.org. Only parents or persons listed as emergency contacts should pick up a child. Picture ID may be required. Students can be picked up from the main entrance.

What if my child attends a non-public school or is home schooled?

As long as your child qualifies and is enrolled in the FFSD school district, they can participate in the Probe Program. Reach out to MyCaila Lyles at mlyles2@fergflor.org for more information.

To complete registration, you need to have the required documents such as:

- an occupancy
- permit (less than 30 days old)
- a copy of your leases/mortgage
- parent ID and the child's birth certificate
- immunization records
- social security card and last report card.

How do I contact the Probe Program?

The best way to contact the Probe Program:

Email MyCaila Lyles - mlyles2@fergflor.org or call 314-831-4551.

MyCaila Lyles, Probe's office manager will relay messages to classroom teachers as necessary.

How do I contact the Probe teachers or other staff during the school year?

Probe Teacher - Ms. Karen Doering, kdoering@fergflor.org

Probe Teacher/Gifted Tester -Mrs. Hilary Licata- hlicata@fergflor.org

Probe Teacher -Mrs. Pamela Gerlach - pgerlach@fergflor.org

Probe Teacher -Mr. Michael Vordtriede - mvordtriede@fergflor.org

Principal of STEAM Academy Middle and Probe Director -Dr. Chris Ries - cries@fergflor.org

Will my child remain in Probe in future years?

A child who qualifies for gifted services in our district will always be a “gifted” child in our district . (Other school districts have their own qualification procedures.) Gifted students will continue to receive gifted services unless there is a reason to discontinue. See academic and behavior expectations below.

Does my child have to attend Probe?

Attendance is of the utmost importance. We expect that all students who qualify for gifted services will attend our program. If there is a concern, please contact us. We would like to help your child work through the difficulty. We recognize that bright students are sometimes anxious or work-shy, but the goal of gifted services is to help students with all their needs, social-emotional as well as academic. We would like to teach them strategies to manage challenges today and in the future. See attendance expectations below.

Are there academic, attendance, and behavior expectations to remain in the Probe Program?

Yes, please see the link that follows for these expectations:

[☰ 25-26 Elementary PROBE Responsibility](#)

Probe also follows all of the District SEC expectations: [SEC](#)