



WHY FLAMINGOS?

Were you wondering why we choose flamingos to represent our Center for Gifted Studies?

We promise we didn't choose these iconic pink beauties just because they are tropical and cute (although that of course played a part). Flamingos symbolize cooperation, intellect, balance, contemplation and rarity. All of which you will recognize as characteristics of gifted learners. We can learn many lessons (and a few idioms) from flamingos that easily extend to gifted learners. Flamingos teach us there is "safety in numbers" and we know an integral part of our full-time programming is that gifted learners learn best with their gifted peers! Flamingos also teach us to "stand tall" which is something we work with our gifted learners on in explicit social emotional curriculum related to their giftedness. From flamingos, we also learn that "you are what you eat" or for our purposes, what you consume, which is why we believe in the importance in differentiating teaching and curriculum for gifted learners. Our Center for Gifted Studies magnet program offers gifted learners opportunities to work with other gifted learners, to understand and develop their giftedness, and to grow both academically and emotionally with teachers who know how to balance their needs.

We are "tickled pink" that you took a minute to read why we chose flamingos as our symbol to represent our Center for Gifted Studies program and hope you agree that our seemingly outlandish choice better represented the ideals of our program than the typical brain, pencil, rocket or box.

Before you go, we wanted to leave you with an interesting tidbit to put aside for a future trivia night.

Did you know that American flamingos are native to Florida? It's true! For a while, it was assumed they were in Florida as escapees but there are historical records from the 1800's referencing flamingo eggs and Mr. Audubon himself visited Florida in the 1830's specifically to see flamingos. Unfortunately, flamingos all but disappeared from the wild in the early 1900's from overhunting. So it's true! Flamingos are native Floridians!