

Philosophy of the Gifted Support Services

The Eastern Lancaster County School District provides opportunities for enrichment and/or acceleration to gifted students K-12. Gifted support services present individualized and diverse experiences for these students and recognize the benefit of interaction with intellectual peers.

The district's gifted support services advocates a learning environment that encourages problem solving through independent study, creativity, critical thinking, personal interaction, communication skills and leadership. Students develop an understanding of personal responsibility to self, school, and society.

Screening and Evaluation Procedures

As required by Pennsylvania Chapter 16, Eastern Lancaster County School District uses multiple criteria in determining a student's eligibility for gifted services. Eastern Lancaster County School District screens all students in the spring of their 2nd grade year based on universal assessments given to all elementary age students. Those students who meet the screening criteria are further assessed using other standardized measures to determine their eligibility. Parents can always request an evaluation in writing through their child's building principal.



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ELANCO School District Special Services



Gifted Education Services

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Elementary School Services

Services and programming at the elementary school level is two-fold:

(1) Identified gifted students meet once per cycle with intellectual peers of similar grades during intervention time with the gifted support teacher.

(2) Identified students receive services delivered in the context of their general classrooms as per goals on their GIEPs. This may include enrichment or acceleration based on the individual student's strengths.

Gifted intervention time for grades 3-6 includes thematic units of study and simulations, problem-solving, debate opportunities, and addresses social-emotional aspects of giftedness. These students also engage in a long-term research project on a topic of their choice during the second half of each school year. The research process concludes with the presentation of projects and products at the annual Elementary Gifted Expo each Spring.

Elementary students may also participate in a variety of other enrichment opportunities offered throughout the year such as SEE seminars, writing contests, and reading challenges such as the Mensa for Kids Excellence in Reading Challenge.

For more information contact Cherie Lenahan at cherie_lenahan@elanco.org or 354-1520 ext.4157

Gifted Support Description

Eastern Lancaster County School District's Gifted Support Services are called GSGS, which stands for Garden Spot Gifted Support. GSGS strives to meet the needs of identified gifted students by providing experiences and activities not ordinarily covered in the regular curriculum. The K-12 GSGS program focuses on four major domains of academic and personal development:

Cognitive

Includes research and the development of independent study skills.

Creative Thinking

Includes brainstorming, fluency, flexibility, originality, and elaboration.

Critical Thinking

Includes inquiry, logical reasoning, problem solving, and gathering, analyzing, and interpreting information.

Affective

Includes self-understanding, interpersonal skills, and coping strategies.

Middle School

The Middle School program provides opportunities for academic challenge through class placement and enrichment once a week during 8th period. Students also receive services delivered in the context of their general classrooms. Enrichment sessions offer a variety of student selected topics, including deductive and critical thinking challenges, and off-campus SEE Seminars (see below).

High School

The high school gifted program meets the needs of its gifted population through small group meetings, individual student interviews, enrichment opportunities through IU13, and prospective for self-chosen course study for enrichment or for honors credit.

Small group meetings: Students may attend GSGS session that are held weekly by grade level. These meetings provide for experiences in problem solving, critical and creative thinking, college planning, career topics, and other student selected topics of interest.

IU13 Student Enrichment Experience Seminars (SEE Seminars): SEE Seminars are off-campus experiences which offer the student an opportunity to explore topics not normally found in the classroom. Students have a chance to participate in a wide variety of activities and meet gifted students from other schools.

Self-chosen Study Opportunities: Students have the opportunity to participate in course offerings that are specifically designed for the gifted student. Students will receive 1 honors credit per course taken. Current course offerings include Advance Leadership Seminar, Philosophy 101, Exploring Cross-Cultural American Literature and AP Seminar.

For more information contact Valerie Sharir at Valerie_sharir@elanco.org or 354-1588.