

Gifted Services Parent Information Night

October 13, 2021

What's in a name?

It's a loaded statement. *My child is gifted.*

How do we as parents and teachers help our students and others to not see this as a badge that is earned or a label that limits their options?



Think of ability as like Legos. You can have a whole tub of Lego bricks or just a handful. It is what you **do** with the Legos (ability) that matters!



Who is considered “Gifted”

- Gifted students are defined in the Ohio Revised Code (3324.01) as *those who perform or show potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared to others of their age, experience or environment.*
- We identify giftedness using state approved tests and state approved identification cut scores.

Ohio's school districts are NOT required to **serve** gifted children by law, but they are required to **identify** students as gifted in grades K - 12.

Whole grade-level screening must happen once in grades K-2 and once again in grades 3-6.

Aurora tests second grade students in March and fifth grade students in February.

Parents or teachers can refer students they believe to be gifted for testing during testing windows for off-year testing. The permission form can be found on the district gifted website and must be completed for testing to occur.

*THE MISSION OF THE GIFTED
SERVICES IN THE AURORA CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT IS TO PROVIDE A
RIGOROUS ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT
DESIGNED TO MEET THE
INTELLECTUAL, CREATIVE, SOCIAL
AND EMOTIONAL NEEDS OF GIFTED
INDIVIDUALS*

Our Mission

What can you find there?

The Gifted Services Handbook

contact

information for
the coordinator
and gifted
interventionists

parent resources

forms to request testing
or acceleration

ACSD Gifted Services Website

Gifted Services include...

- Regular classroom enrichment and extension
- Differentiated instruction
- Cluster and ability grouping
- Advanced/honors level classes
- Acceleration Options
 - Early Entrance to Kindergarten
 - Subject Acceleration
 - Whole Grade Acceleration
 - Early Graduation
- Advanced Placement classes
- College Credit Plus Courses
- Visual and Performing Arts Classes

Gr. 2-5 Gifted Cluster Grouping

- Regular Classroom with Cluster of gifted students
- Cluster can include 2-10 students
- Superior Cognitive identified students are deliberately placed in classes with a teacher who has received professional development in meeting the needs of gifted learners. Differentiated instruction for clustered students is delivered by the regular classroom teacher.
- 128 on ability test
- 95th percentile in reading or math
- Creative gifted identification

Differentiation in the classroom

What might this look like?

Math

- Choice work when finished with classwork or instead of this work.
- Tiered assignments based on ability
- Guided small group instruction
- Changes to the numbers or leaving “holes”

Language Arts

- Guided Reading Groups
- Deeper questioning to get to the heart of what we read/write
- Small groups for writing allow for building on strengths or bolstering weaknesses
- Encouraging readers as they challenge themselves

Push in / Pull out services with Gifted Intervention Specialists

Gifted Intervention Specialists work with students either in or out of the classroom depending on the classroom, time, and needs. These teachers may see your student 1-2 times a week in the area that they are gifted.

Push-in services may look like team teaching or like a group taken to a table in the room to work on a challenging problem or reading passage.

Pull-out services include students leaving the classroom to work with the interventionist on challenges outside the room.

The ultimate goal of these services is to add another layer of challenging work to your student's day.

Enrichment

- Class is led by a Gifted Intervention Specialist (Mrs. VanFossen)
- Criteria: 127+ on Ability test
- Meet daily during WIN time
(no curriculum missed)
- Focus on critical and creative thinking skills
- Social and emotional emphasis on giftedness as thinking differently, not smarter than others

WEPS (Written Education Plans)

- Not an IEP (not a legal document)
- Communication tool
- Identifies student's area of giftedness
- Record of gifted services delivery options
- Staff responsible for delivering services
- Student goals are individual and created by the classroom teacher with your child's needs in mind
- Progress is monitored through classroom pre and post assessments
- Progress is reported using the district's PIV and quarterly report cards
- WEPS are created annually, **shared with parents in the fall during parent teacher conferences**

WEP Page 1

Aurora City Schools – Written Educational Plan

Name: Sally Student Grade: 3

Building: Leighton Year: 2020/2021

Next Review: Fall 2021

Method & Schedule for reporting progress: Online grade book – PIV and Quarterly Report Cards, conference opportunities

Method for evaluating progress: Formative and summative assessments as well as anecdotal records

Area(s) of identification: Superior Cognitive Ability
 Creative Thinking Ability

Specific Academic Achievement: Reading Math
 Visual and Performing Arts

Service(s) Provided:

Service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gifted Cluster Placement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource Room: Enrichment	<input type="checkbox"/> Resource Room: Accelerated Math	<input type="checkbox"/> Services Trained Art
Description	Students are deliberately placed in classes with other gifted students and with a teacher who has received professional development in meeting the needs of gifted learners. Instruction for clustered students is delivered by the regular classroom teacher and differentiated to meet the needs of gifted learners.	Students will work with the Gifted Intervention Specialist during WIN to enrich academic work with an emphasis on critical and creative thinking skills.	Students will work at an accelerated pace through grade-level and above grade-level instruction in mathematics. This class is taught by the Gifted Intervention Specialist.	Within the regular instructional process and students will be engaged in the process and
Teacher(s) Responsible:	Mr. Clapper Mrs. Core	Mrs. VanFossen		

Waiver of Assignments and rescheduling of tests may be necessary when services are rendered outside the classroom.

Student will be exempted from regular classroom assignments that conflict with gifted education instruction. Long term classroom will be compacted based on individual and classroom needs. Students will have the opportunity to schedule make up tests in accordance with district policy.

Page 1 includes identification and service information.

WEP Page 2

This page shows the goal that your child's teacher chose specifically for your student.

There may be more than one of these based on different areas of identification.

Goals	
English Language Arts	The student will demonstrate ability to analyze, summarize, and interpret higher level reading material.
Mathematics	Student will demonstrate a mastery of advanced math concepts through products that are differentiated in complexity, and depth.
Critical and Creative Thinking	
Social and Emotional	Student will demonstrate realistic high expectations for self and others.
Visual and Performing Arts	

I have received a copy of this WEP yes no Parent initials _____

Written Education Plan delivered: in person electronically by mail

District Representative: Shannon Gagel, Coordinator of Gifted Services cc: student file, teacher, parent

Push-in/pull-out services are not listed on WEP due to not meeting the number of minutes necessary.

Looking ahead

- 5th Graders will take the CogAT and Iowa tests in February.
- Families of 5th graders will receive CogAT and Iowa results in early March. This packet will also include information on placements for 6th grade classes.
- Appeal process can be used as needed

Looking ahead to Harmon: Language Arts

Students identified as superior cognitive OR gifted in the area of reading are placed in Gifted Language Arts for 6th and 7th grade. Mrs. Sunderhaft has her masters degree in gifted education. This is a course that covers the Ohio language arts state standards with an emphasis on etymology and use of vocabulary. This is a writing-intensive class.

Harmon's regular language arts classes in 6th and 7th grade will also prepare students for college preparation level courses as students move toward the high school.

8th grade Honors Language Arts is a class that serves gifted students as well as high achieving typical students.

Looking ahead to Harmon: Math

Three starting points:

6th grade math

6/7a math (teacher with gifted training)

- single year acceleration over two calendar years
- 7b/8 is taken in 7th grade
- 8th Honors is 9th grade math
- Can access 1-2 AP math courses during H.S.

6th accelerated math (teacher with gifted training)

- covers 6th, 7th and part of 8th grade math
- 7th accelerated covers remainder of 8th and all of 9th grade
- 8th accelerated covers 10th grade math
- Can access 2-3 AP math courses during H.S.

MATH TEAM RE-EVALUATES PLACEMENT 1st QTR

How can parents support?

Keep the lines of communication open.

Talk with your student about the challenges given. Encourage productive struggle!

Allow your student to “be bored”. Creativity is born from not being constantly entertained.

Play games that challenge all as a family!

Questions from YOU

How can parents support the program from a funding perspective?

Funding for gifted programming is provided by the state and district funds.

Parents can support the program by volunteering expertise in an area, offering field trip opportunities that might engage students, or connecting teachers to interesting opportunities to engage with experts.

Is there support for science and social studies?

At Leighton, most of our cluster teachers have gifted endorsements/masters degrees and work to challenge students in these areas as well. At Harmon, enrichment and independent project opportunities are available through teachers. At the high school, honors and AP classes are available starting in 9th grade.

What if student is not thriving? Can they opt out?

A student always has the option to opt out of services that are not currently meeting their needs.

Can you recommend good Books games, etc?

Please check the district gifted website in coming weeks! Until then, you can always search for [Hoagie's Gifted](#) for great ideas!

Thank you for coming!

Please feel free to contact either of us if you have any questions we can help with!

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