



# Gifted & Talented Education

Mediocrity knows nothing higher than itself, but talent instantly recognizes genius.

— Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

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## WHAT IS “GIFTEDNESS”?

Sometimes, that’s tricky to answer as all students have some sort of gift – whether in athletics, interpersonal skills, or Ohio’s legally defined areas. The state of Ohio defines “giftedness” in six areas: cognition, academics (reading, math, science, and social studies), creative thinking, and the performing arts (dance, music, visual arts, and drama).

## GIFTED: HOW DO WE KNOW?

The first step in the “gifted process” comes either through a referral (self, parent, teacher, or another adult) or through a state-approved assessment taken in 2nd and 5th grade (as required by Ohio law) and/or any approved achievement test. When students receive qualifying scores, they identify as “gifted” according to Ohio OAC 3301-51-15.

## WHAT ARE QUALIFYING SCORES?

To identify as gifted in Ohio, students’ scores must meet the criteria published by the Ohio Department of Education. Each year, the Department – along with trained professionals in gifted education – reviews the list of tests that properly and appropriately identify learners’ abilities and potential for learning. They consider any changes in the test itself, as well as any changes in student populations, and then publish the list of scores needed to identify as gifted in Ohio.

## WHAT IF MY STUDENT’S SCORE IS CLOSE?

Ohio law stresses that school districts must let families know which tests they use to identify gifted students, what the cutoff scores are to identify as gifted, and what range of scores schools will use to allow students to re-test. (This information will be on our website).

## WHAT’S AVAILABLE FOR MY CHILD?

While Sidney City Schools does not currently offer formal gifted services for our elementary-aged students as we are working on providing equitable programming across our district, we are committed to quality schools and lifelong learning. To that end, many of our district’s teachers (K-12) have committed to receiving formal training in gifted education (characteristics and needs of gifted students, differentiation, and identification) that will enable them to provide meaningful coursework within the regular classroom setting for all students. We are excited about this opportunity to challenge our best and brightest students to excel!

In addition to our teacher training, elementary-aged students can benefit from our many informal enrichment opportunities available at our local elementary buildings: just contact your child’s teacher or principal.

## FORMALIZED GIFTED SERVICES

In addition to our teacher training, we offer the options below for our gifted children:

- evaluation for early entrance (K-1)
- opportunities for whole-grade acceleration and subject acceleration
- College Credit Plus courses for qualifying students in grades 7-12

## THE ARTS

Identifying talents and gifts in the arts (art, dance, drama, and music) requires a much more intensive process that includes referrals and involves trained professionals. First, someone refers the student. Next, a trained professional (likely the student’s teacher) evaluates the student based on an objective checklist which our gifted coordinator scores. Then, assuming the student passes the cutoff score, s/he is invited to a performance evaluation (usually in May) where trained professionals make the final determination.

## Additional Resources

Professionals across our region (Miami, Shelby, Logan, Hardin, and Mercer counties) collaborate to provide multiple resources and opportunities for our region’s talented students. For more information, contact MRESC Gifted Coordinator Erica Baer at [ebaer@mresc.org](mailto:ebaer@mresc.org).

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