

# Lincoln Park Elementary School

## Gifted & Talented Program Information

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**Gifted & Talented Coordinator:** Mrs. Ann Marie VanSickle [vansickle@lincpk.com](mailto:vansickle@lincpk.com)  
**Gifted & Talented Teacher:** Mrs. Jaclyn Heftler [heftler@lincpk.com](mailto:heftler@lincpk.com)

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The Gifted & Talented program is designed for students who demonstrate exceptional ability and high potential in a specific subject area or multiple subject areas. Admission is based on multiple criteria that help us build a portfolio for each candidate.

The goal of the program is to identify and support students who need more challenge and support to achieve at high levels. An additional goal is to foster the intellectual, social and emotional growth of these students to help them reach their full potential. Students in the program should have positive attitudes and enthusiasm towards learning new and complex concepts or ideas.

### **New Jersey State Definition of Giftedness**

According to N.J.A.C. 6A:8, “gifted and talented students” means those students who possess or demonstrate high levels of ability in one or more content areas, when compared to their chronological peers in the local school district and who require modifications of their educational program if they are to achieve in accordance with their capabilities.

### **Program Opportunities**

All students in Grades K - 2 are offered enrichment opportunities by the Gifted & Talented teacher who will push into each class throughout the school year. Students who have been identified as having gifts or talents in Grades 3 - 4 are offered enrichment activities through pull-out programs that will occur each week as part of our Multi-Tiered Systems of Support instruction. In addition, the Lincoln Park School District is a part of the New Jersey Consortium for Gifted & Talented Services, through which we are able to participate in a variety of activities with other districts throughout the year. The activities vary per year and per grade level.

### **Criteria for Selection**

As defined by New Jersey in the above definition, students are selected for Gifted education programs based on comparison to their peers within the district. Generally, students who exhibit potential that is approximately two grade levels above their peers in English-Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Art, and/or other areas are sought out for the program so they can be provided with experiences that will challenge their critical thinking, problem solving, independent study skills, communication and other opportunities to advance them as gifted learners.

Lincoln Park will utilize multiple measures to screen and identify students for the program, including but not limited to standardized testing (i.e. NJSLA); local benchmark testing (i.e. iReady); parent, student, and/or teacher recommendations; student submitted work samples

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(i.e. writing sample, art project); the Renzulli Scales, and/or other criteria that may be pertinent to the selection process.

Students who enter the program in grades 2, 3 or 4 will continue in the program through grade 5, barring any reasons for exiting the program prior to grade 5. Students in grade 5 will follow the middle school identification process to determine eligibility for the grade 6 - 8 program.

### **Timelines**

Student screening takes place at least once per year in the spring.

### **New Students to District:**

Students new to the district can request by **September 30th** to be screened in the Fall to have the opportunity to participate during the current year.

### **Attendance in the program**

Students who are accepted into the program and agree to participate will be expected to attend all sessions.

### **Exit Procedures**

Students' talents and interests may evolve over time. There may be times when the program does not appear to meet the needs of a student. The parent/guardian, teacher or student may initiate the exit process if this is the case. Students who are accepted into the program one year, may choose to exit or be requested to exit during another year depending on circumstances. Parents will be notified in these circumstances.

### **Appeals Process**

A student and/or parent may file an appeal if not satisfied with the decision of the team following the admission decision. The process is as follows:

- The person appealing must submit to the Director of Curriculum & Instruction and the principal of the building a written statement outlining the nature of the concern. The written appeal must contain a statement of the concern, any evidence in its support, the solution desired, the student and parent signatures, and the date the appeal is submitted.
- The Director of Curriculum and the building principal will convene a meeting with the Gifted & Talented teachers to review the appeal request within 15 school days. Following the review, the parents will be sent an Appeals Decision Notification letter.

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### **Program Requirements**

- Program requirements will be agreed to by both the students and their parent/guardian through a permission slip.
- Students will make every effort to attend all meetings.
- Students will make every effort to keep an open mind and to respect and include each other at all times.
  - Group work requires cooperation and compromise. Students will be working closely together with many great ideas. One of our main goals is to foster learning from others while sharing knowledge and experiences. Disrespectful behavior towards peers or adults during sessions is not acceptable.
- Students will make every effort to do their best.
  - Programs such as this require students to step out of their comfort zone, be willing to speak up and share ideas, and to promote a friendly, safe and inclusive environment.

### **Concepts & Themes**

The concepts and themes of the program may change due to opportunities that may arise during the planning and preparation process for the year. The current Gifted & Talented program curriculum for grades K - 4 can be found on the district website: [Lincoln Park Gifted & Talented Curriculum](#)