

Lincoln Park Middle School

Gifted & Talented Program Information

Please complete the online application by the due date.

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 a combination of assessments, teacher recommendations, student submitted artifacts, an interview and other considerations (e.g. attendance, in good standing with the school code of conduct, etc.) 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.

Nomination Process

Selection of Students

The application process is open to all students in Gr. 5 - 7 for the following year. Students who were in the Gr. 4 program will automatically be accepted into the Gr. 5 program. Following, each year, students will need to reapply for acceptance into the program. Acceptance into the program from previous years *does not guarantee* acceptance in future years. The program groups students in Grades 5 & 6 together and students in Grades 7 & 8 together for most activities.

Students and parents are encouraged to pay attention to the Electronic Backpack for information. All prospective students must refer themselves for consideration into the program and parents must give permission for consideration.

Timelines

- Step 1: Applications are available on the district website under the drop down menu, Special Services, on or about **February 15th** each year.
- Step 2: Applications must be submitted by **March 10th**. Incomplete applications will not be considered. The team will then review applications and determine candidates who will continue to Step 3.
- Step 3: Approximately between **April 15th** and **June 10th**, applications will be reviewed by the committee.

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- Step 4: A formal letter will be sent home in **June** informing students of their acceptance into the program, as well as expectations and requirements.

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

A rubric based on the multiple measures will be completed to help determine student eligibility for the program.

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. Application materials including assessments and student artifacts for screening in the initial year should be considered depending on availability.

Attendance in the program

Students who are accepted into the program and agree to participate will be expected to attend all sessions. However, some students are involved with several activities outside of school that may at times conflict with the program. If a student misses two or more sessions without providing a written reason (i.e. email to the teacher(s) of the program) prior to missing a session (i.e. sports or other commitment), he or she may be excused from the program for the remainder of the year due to the limited number of sessions and the group work involved in projects and activities. If students miss sessions, they may be expected to complete activities independently in order for them to benefit from participation in the program. See more information in the section "Course Requirements".

Exit Procedures

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.

Appeals Process

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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.

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.
 - The nature of the program is to work on a major learning project. By missing meeting dates, students not only miss out on important information and learning experiences, but also hinder their group's work as well. Missing more than two sessions will result in removal from the program for the year.
- 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.
- Community service
 - Students will complete five hours of community service each year on their own through an approved independent project or facility. Community service provides advanced students with opportunities to enhance their own social, emotional and personal growth, in addition to academic learning opportunities.

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. Examples of projects that students have participated in include:

- Fifth grade - STEAM project

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- Learning Goal - To combine science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics in a design project within specific parameters while meeting deadlines.
- Sixth grade - Project Teamwork
 - Learning Goal - To enable the students to succeed in a cooperative learning environment. Foster collaborative efforts to enhance the learning of all students.
- Seventh grade - Love of Learning
 - Learning Goal - Students identify an area of personal importance and follow through with research, design and implementation of a project.
- Eighth grade - World Activism
 - Learning Goal - To expose students to the larger world around them. Students research a local, state, federal or world event with the intention of discovering possible solutions to make recommendations or evaluate implemented solutions.