



**VIRTUAL**  
**GIFTED INFORMATION**  
**NIGHT**

**Wednesday, October 9, 2024**

**6:30-7:30pm**

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# WHO'S ON THE ZOOM?

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INTRODUCTION

GIFTED DEPARTMENT

NAME AND FAVORITE FALL TREAT OR  
FALL ACTIVITY



# AGENDA

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**WHAT IS  
GIFTEDNESS?**

**OVERVIEW OF  
THE GIFTED  
PROGRAM**

**GIFTED  
IDENTIFICATON**

# **WHAT IS GIFTEDNESS?**

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## BRIEF DEFINITION

A child may demonstrate exceptional ability, talent, or intelligence in one or more domains such as academics, creativity, or leadership.

# WHAT IS GIFTEDNESS?

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## DESE DEFINITION

“ those children who exhibit precocious development of mental capacity and learning potential as determined by competent professional evaluation to the extent that continued educational growth and stimulation could best be served by an academic environment beyond that offered through a standard grade level curriculum.”

Section 162.675. RSMo

# CHARACTERISTICS

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## INTELLECTUAL

Advanced Reasoning  
Curiosity  
High Information Retention

## EMOTIONAL & SOCIAL

High Sensitivity  
Perfectionism  
Sense of Justice  
Difficulty Relating to Peers

## CREATIVE

Innovative Thinking  
Imaginative Play  
Divergent Thinking

## BEHAVIORAL

High Energy Levels  
Focused Obsession with Interests  
Independence  
Asynchronous Development

# I AM GIFTED VIDEO

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4:30 MIN



# OVERVIEW OF THE GIFTED PROGRAM

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ACADEMIC GIFTED

GIFTED FINE ARTS

- Elementary Push-In Lessons for Grades K, 1, 3, 4
- Project Plus, Grades 2-5
- Gifted Social Studies, Grades 6-8
- Gifted English and Gifted Academic Lab/Seminar, Grades 9-12
- Gifted Fine Arts, Grades 3-8



# PORTRAIT OF A GIFTED LEARNER

DESE



## Portrait of a Gifted Learner





# ELEMENTARY

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## ACADEMIC GIFTED

GRADE 2 - 150  
MIN/WEEK

GRADES 3-5 - 250  
MIN/WEEK

## PUSH IN LESSONS

Grades K, 1, 3, and 4

## PROJECT PLUS

Students spend time expanding their creative and higher-level thinking skills while investigating new concepts, exploring materials, increasing their leadership skills, and seeking solutions through problem solving, research projects, and inquiry.

Students explore the United Nations Global Goals, career paths, work on cooperative team challenges and focus on their affective development and executive functioning skills.

# GIFTED SOCIAL STUDIES, GRADES 6-8

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## HIGH SCHOOL GIFTED SERVICES

### **Middle School**

Middle School services are provided through Gifted Social Studies. Students are introduced to the same skills and methods used by historians. There is a focus on history told through multiple cultural lenses that integrates the stories of the people who contributed to the diverse landscape of our country. To address the needs of gifted learners, the teachers incorporate key skills in critical thinking, communication, collaboration, time management, creativity and more.

### **High School**

High School services are delivered through core English classes. Two additional gifted courses, Gifted Academic Lab and Gifted Seminar, support students with executive functioning skills and/or their academic and affective needs that promote their success in and beyond the high school years.



## **Gifted Fine Arts, Grades**

### **3-5**

The GFA Program provides students with enriched opportunities in music, visual arts, drama, and dance. Students come together as a community of artists to further develop an appreciation of the arts while advancing communication skills, critical thinking, problem solving, creative expression, and enhanced self-esteem. The Gifted Fine Arts Program builds a supportive community of artists on a solid educational foundation to enable gifted students with alternative learning styles and interests to be embraced and nurtured

## **Gifted Fine Arts, Grades**

### **6-8**

Middle School GFA students continue to develop as artists. Students pursue and explore their individual passions within the arts. Higher level critical thinking skills are used to have a heightened awareness of ways art shapes the community and region they live in.



# **GIFTED IDENTIFICATION PROCESS**

**PUSH IN LESSONS  
AND  
UNIVERSAL  
ASSESSMENT**

- **Gifted Specialists have push-in lessons with Kindergarten, 1st, 3rd and 4th grade classrooms to do activities with students that promote creative, analytical and critical thinking skills.**
- **Nonverbal measure of general ability taken by students in Grades 4 (Fall) and 1 (Spring)**
- **NWEA - Scores from the Northwest Evaluation Association (measures academic progress) in grades 6 and 8 are examined to determine if further evaluation is warranted.**

# GIFTED EVALUATION PROCESS

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## TESTING CRITERIA

### **Academic Gifted**

- Nationally Normed General Mental Ability Test (IQ)
- Achievement Test Scores (NWEA)
- Gifted Observation Scales completed by the classroom teacher(s)
- Creativity Assessment

### **Gifted Fine Arts**

- Small Group Performance Day with professional artists (December 17-18)
- Gifted Observation Scales completed by the classroom teacher(s)
- Creativity Assessment

# ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS & DIFFERENTIATION FOR GIFTED LEARNERS

## TWICE EXCEPTIONAL

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Individuals are exceptional in two dimensions:

- Gifted & Talented - having high intellectual abilities
- Diagnosed with a developmental condition, such as autism spectrum disorder (ASD), attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADD/ADHD), or a specific learning disability

These students can be difficult to spot; it is common for either characteristics of their disability to mask underlying giftedness or for their high abilities to mask difficulties that may exist as a result of their disability.

## NEURODIVERGENT

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Those with “atypical” or unique neurological functioning, such as those with disabilities including attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and learning disorders.

## ACCELERATION

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WGSD has procedures to determine if whole-grade or acceleration is warranted. Reach out to me, Susan Bergman, Brian Keller and Kara Mueller for more information.

Acceleration and giftedness do not go hand in hand.

# **GIFTED FINE ARTS EVALUATION DATE CHANGE TUESDAY, DEC. 17 & WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18, 2024**

For the 2024-25 school year, the Gifted Fine Arts Evaluations have been moved to Tuesday, December 17, and Wednesday, December 18, 2024, rather than the usual end-of-February. This change will improve scheduling, while also allowing final scores to be completed earlier, well ahead of the end of the school year.

The [Gifted Fine Arts online referral form](#) will remain open through Monday, November 18, 2024.



**Questions - email the Gifted Coordinator at [washington.pam@wqmail.org](mailto:washington.pam@wqmail.org)**



# PRIOR QUESTIONS

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Does the high school classes allow authentic exploration of material from the students viewpoint - or are they just given 'more' work?



Wondering how kids will be placed in middle school ?



I'm interested in knowing if there are any services for kids who have been diagnosed as "twice exceptional" - my son has ADHD, anxiety, and is gifted. We'd appreciate any help or services that might be available! Thank you.

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

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BREAK OUT ROOMS - 15 MINUTES

**ELEMENTARY**

1

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

2

**HIGH SCHOOL**

3

**GFA**

4

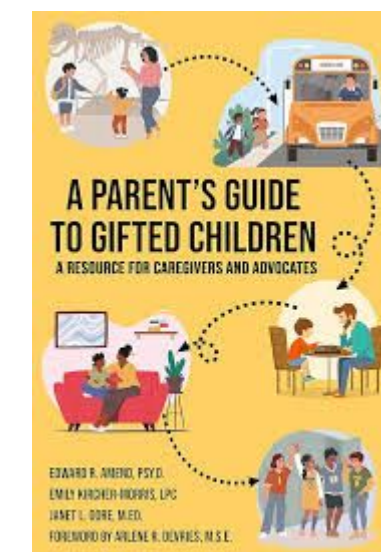
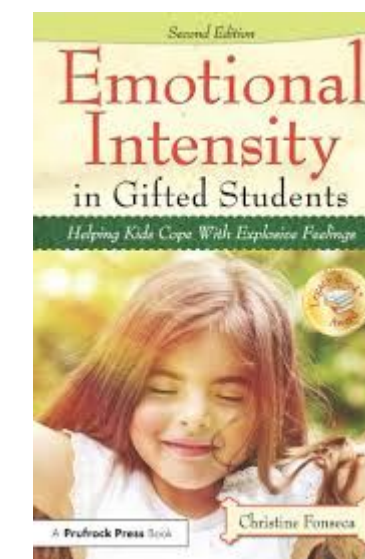
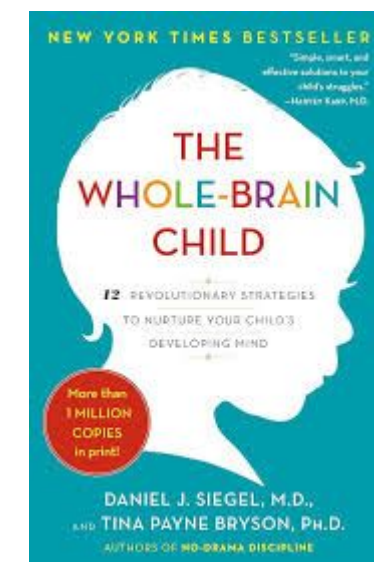
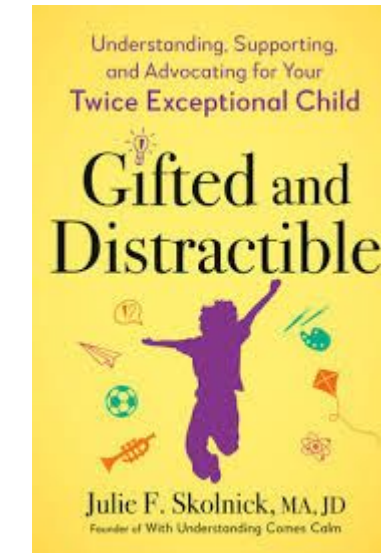
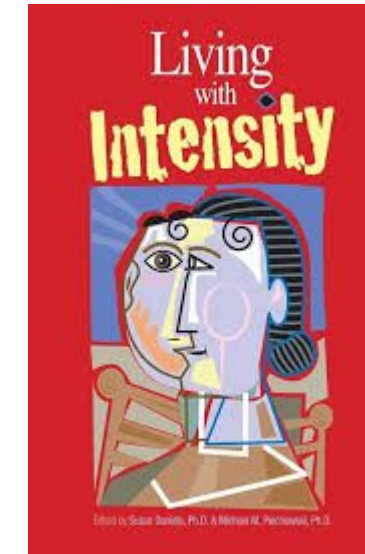
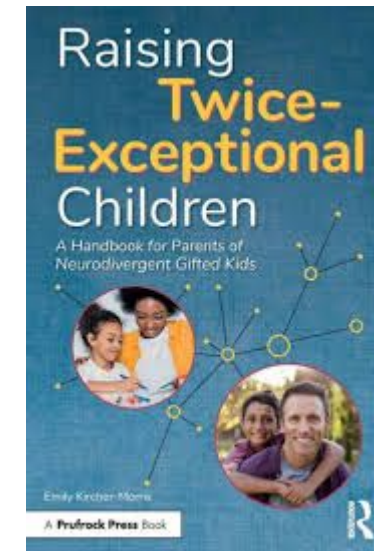
# SOME RESOURCES

NAGC

GAM

GIFTED RESOURCE COUNCIL

[NAGC TIP SHEETS](#) - on the district's gifted page



# THANK YOU

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## QUESTIONS & FEEDBACK

email Pam Washington @  
washington.pam@wgmail.org

Reach out to any of the gifted specialists in your child's building.

Avery - Rochelle Spencer

Bristol - Renee Clifton

Clark & Hudson - Carolyn Recke

Edgar Road & Givens - Shayla Pott

Hixson - Kelly Schroeder & Jon Wetter

WGHS - Kristin Moore, Sarah McGrath, Gwyn Savens