



## WALL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1620 18th Avenue  
Wall Township, NJ 07719

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Wall Gifted and Talented program is Wall Township Public School District's initiative to address the needs of students in grades 3-5 who are deemed academically gifted and talented through multiple measures of performance outcomes. Our vision for this program is to create a supplemental, academically enriched environment that encourages creative and critical thinking. In turn, students then apply this higher-level thinking across all curricula and aspects of their daily learning. Additionally, the program is designed to foster an inquiry-based learning environment where students will participate in divergent and analytical activities.

Typically, students are pulled twice a week for forty minutes into the small group setting with other Gifted and Talented students from their grade level to examine different topics that extend their classroom curriculum. Children in this program complete units of study in the realms of mathematics, social studies, language arts, and science, often overlapping in content areas as we promote project and interest-based learning. STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) components are incorporated into each unit of study to further enhance the critical thinking skills needed to be successful in the 21st Century world. The process and criteria for participation in the program is as follows:

Students entering 3rd, 4th or 5th Grade : Stage 1

### Language Arts-

F&P and IReady- must be above grade level

Reading Scores (upper elementary)- must be consistently in the 90's

Report Card -Students demonstrate 4's or mastery level in several standards

### Mathematics-

Post-Benchmark average score must be 95% or higher

Report Card -Students demonstrate 4's or mastery level in several standards

Advanced I-Ready Scores

\*\*Input from classroom teachers regarding daily work habits, interests, and motivation is considered.

**\*\*Please note, if your child was in the 2nd-grade program last year, he/she will be reevaluated in 3rd grade through the same means as the children that reach Stage 2 in the process.**

Grade 3/4/5: Stage 2

The Cognitive Abilities Test, Form 7 (CogAT 7) is a psychometric-sound and valid instrument for the identification of gifted and talented students by Dr. David F. Lohman. Dr. Lohman is a Professor in the Department of Psychological and Quantitative Foundations in the College of Education at The University of Iowa. He is also the lead author of Riverside's market-leading Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT).



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The CogAT 7 is divided into three parts: Verbal Battery, Non-Verbal Battery, and Quantitative. For each section, a student is scored and then ranked in a national percentile. The combined average percentile from all three sections will then be used to determine participation in the program. **The district uses a composite or average score of 95% as its determining percentile for participation.**

I am pleased to inform you that your child has met the criteria for Stage 1 and with your permission will advance to the second stage of the screening assessment. If you and your child decide to move forward with the process, please respond to this email stating that you give me permission to test. Testing will begin at the end of the week of September 11th. I will notify you of your child's results within a week after administering it.

I will be picking students up from their homerooms and taking them to the school's cafeteria or art room, depending on the school and its availability. Each child will receive their own test booklet and will not share materials. The test will be taken over the course of two days, for about an hour and a half for each sitting, with bathroom and stretch breaks included.

If your child meets the 95% target score for eligibility, I will be pulling your child from his/her class for two, forty-minute periods per week for in-person instruction. They will be joined by other identified students within their grade level which will allow for collaboration and a more authentic learning experience. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Cirigliano  
Gifted and Talented, 3-5  
Wall Township Public Schools  
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