

Rationale

According to research, the gifted student has often mastered as much as 50% of the material to be learned in a given school year. Therefore, the gifted child needs consistent opportunities to learn new material and to develop the behaviors that allow them to cope with the challenge and struggle of new learning. This can only be accomplished when the student is consistently offered a range of learning opportunities commensurate with their abilities.

The Missouri General Assembly recognizes that there are limited numbers of the academically advanced student whose mental capacity and learning potential are so advanced that they need services beyond the level of those ordinarily provided. This responsibility is addressed within the standards of the Missouri School Improvement Program. According to standard 7.2, each district should identify the gifted student at all levels and provide them differentiated instruction suitable for their levels of intellectual and social maturity.

The gifted program strives to provide the gifted student with experiences that are different from those in the regular classroom. The program offers appropriate learning experiences to teach, challenge and expand the student's knowledge while simultaneously stressing the development of an independent learner who can question, apply and generate information. Emphasis is placed on providing a flexible environment for self-directed and group activities that develop, strengthen, broaden and challenge the exceptional abilities of the gifted child.

Course Description

The primary grade level gifted curriculum incorporates the core curricular areas as an instructional foundation. Activities are designed to introduce the student in kindergarten through 3rd grade higher level thinking skills, problem solving techniques, creativity, research skills and to promote understanding of self, others and the world. Contests and competitions are introduced to stimulate achievement in various areas. The gifted student has opportunities to explore a wide range of topics, thus encouraging life-long learning.

Course Objectives

1. The student will apply research skills to develop a knowledge base for use in product development 85% of the time. Assessed on MAP, grade 3. (CA 1, CA 3, SS 7; 1.1, 1.2)
2. The student will utilize at least one of the higher level thinking skills of analysis, synthesis, and/or evaluation in 3 out of 4 selected activities. Assessed on MAP, grade 4. (1.5, 1.6, 2.1, 4.1)
3. The student will demonstrate the necessary skills to recognize and solve a problem. Mastery will be measured on 3 out of 4 selected activities. Assessed on MAP, grade 4. (MA 1, MA2, MA4; 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.5, 3.7, 4.1)
4. The student will exhibit the creative thinking skills of fluency, flexibility, originality, and elaboration in written, oral and/or visual presentations. Primary students should demonstrate proficiency in at least 2 of the creative thinking skills. Assessed by teacher assigned projects and written activities. (CA 4, CA 6; 2.1, 2.5, 4.1, 4.6)
5. The student will gain self-awareness and develop interpersonal skills. This will be evaluated through student reflections and teacher observations. Assessed by student reflections and teacher observation documenting improvement. (HPE 2; 4.4, 4.6)

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