

CURRICULUM OFFICE

Park Ridge School District



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Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology
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Dear Parents/Guardians,

At this time of the year, we begin to solicit referrals for the district's gifted and talented Owls Pride Program for the 2025-2026 school year. As educators, we are always delighted to witness the unique abilities and potential within each child. Teachers will have the opportunity to identify students in their classes, but parents are also welcome to participate in the process.

The Gifted and Talented program is designed to provide enriching experiences and tailored support for students who demonstrate exceptional abilities or potential in various areas. These may include intellectual, creative, artistic, or leadership capabilities. The Owls Pride program is for students in grades 3-8. The students will have 86 minutes of pull-out instruction weekly with the District's Gifted and Talented teacher. The students will be responsible for making up the work they miss during their time out of the classroom.

Before requesting an assessment for the Gifted and Talented program, it is important to reflect on whether you've observed consistent indications of advanced abilities or exceptional potential in your child. This program is specifically designed to cater to the unique needs of gifted students. Ensuring that requests for assessment are rooted in genuine observations will help us best support your child's educational journey. We kindly ask you to consider the sheet that outlines the characteristics of the Bright vs. Gifted Child.

If, after careful consideration, you believe that your child would benefit from participation in the Gifted and Talented program, we encourage you to complete an admission packet. Completing these forms does not ensure acceptance into the Owls Pride program but will provide important preliminary information to the screening committee. In addition to the information form given to the committee from parents and teachers, all nominated students will be given the InView and Terra Nova assessments over the course of five days. Permission must be granted for testing to occur.

If you would like to have your child tested, please visit the district website to access all required forms. Submit these forms to your child's teacher by Friday, April 11th. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please do not hesitate to contact Brigitte Walsh at brigittewalsh@parkridge.k12.nj.us if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Melissa Ballaera
Supervisor of Elementary Education

Brigitte Walsh
Gifted & Talented Teacher