



VIRTUAL
GIFTED INFORMATION
NIGHT
SY 2024 - 2025

AGENDA

**WHAT IS
GIFTEDNESS?**

**OVERVIEW OF
THE GIFTED
PROGRAM**

**GIFTED
IDENTIFICATON**

WHAT IS GIFTEDNESS?

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?

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

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

OVERVIEW OF THE GIFTED PROGRAM

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

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

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

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)
- Gifted Observation Scales completed by the classroom teacher(s)
- Creativity Assessment

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS & DIFFERENTIATION FOR GIFTED LEARNERS

TWICE EXCEPTIONAL

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

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

WGSD has procedures to determine if whole-grade or acceleration is warranted. Reach out to your child’s building principal and classroom teacher about this.

Acceleration and giftedness do not go hand in hand.

GIFTED FINE ARTS EVALUATION

**Takes place in December
before Winter Break**

The Gifted Fine Arts Evaluations have been moved to December 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 referral form will be open from the first week of June until the last week in October.



Questions - email the Gifted Coordinator at washington.pam@wqmail.org

PRIOR QUESTIONS



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.

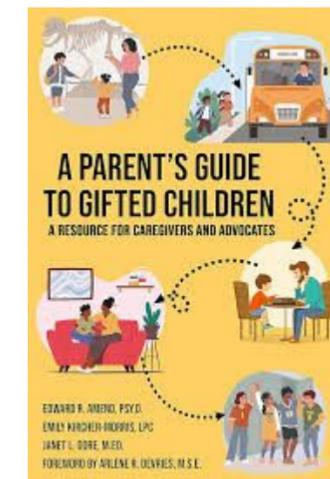
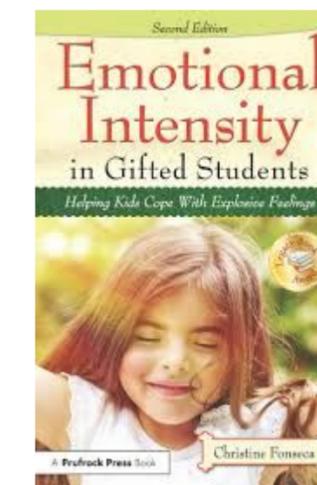
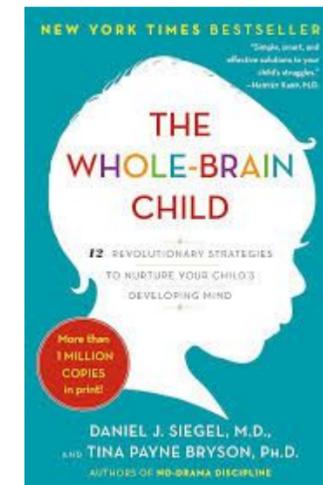
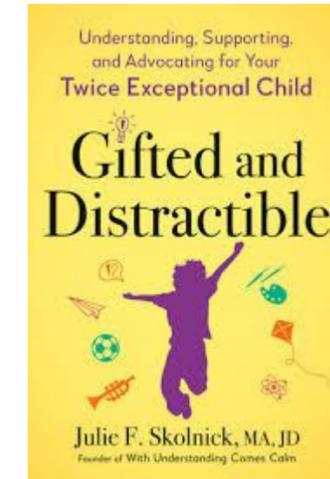
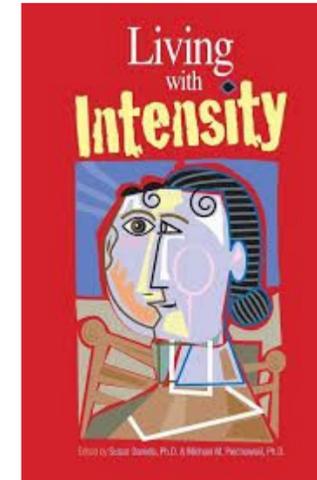
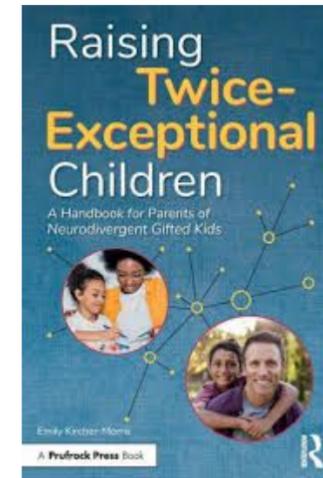
SOME RESOURCES

NAGC

GAM

GIFTED RESOURCE COUNCIL

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



THANK YOU

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