

Wainwright Elementary School – Gifted Education Plan

Purpose

The Gifted and Talented (GT) program at Wainwright Elementary is designed to provide enriched, project-based learning opportunities that extend beyond the general education curriculum. The goal is to foster critical thinking, creativity, problem-solving, and leadership skills in gifted learners through authentic, rigorous, and engaging experiences.

Target Group

- Students in Grades 3–5 identified as Gifted and Talented (GT).
- Opportunities are available during designated enrichment times, small group pull-outs, or integrated within the classroom through collaboration with teachers.

Program Framework

Instructional Approach

- Project-Based Learning (PBL): Students engage in extended projects that emphasize inquiry, research, and product creation.
- Student Voice & Choice: Learners select pathways within projects to showcase creativity and pursue individual interests.
- Critical Thinking & Problem Solving: Opportunities are embedded for evaluation, synthesis, and application of knowledge.

Enrichment Opportunities (Grades 3–5)

- Story Quilt – Exploring storytelling, culture, and symbolism through art and literature.
- Are We There Yet? – Investigating exploration, travel, and geography through real-world problem-solving.
- Americans: Then Versus Now – Analyzing cultural, social, and political shifts across U.S. history.
- Innovation Celebration – Researching inventors and innovations; creating original prototypes or solutions to modern challenges.
- Journey Through Time & Energy – Examining scientific discoveries about energy and their impact on society.
- American History Digital Museum – Creating digital exhibits that highlight diverse viewpoints in U.S. history.
- Step Into The Past: The Historical Perspectives Podcast – Producing podcast episodes to share historical events from multiple perspectives.

Campus Showcase

Identified GT students will also participate in the Annual Gifted and Talented Fair held in the spring. Students showcase their creative work—including story quilts, digital museums, prototypes, and podcasts—to families, staff, and the wider school community. The fair provides authentic opportunities for students to demonstrate their learning, celebrate accomplishments, and inspire peers.

Student Outcomes

- Develop research and inquiry skills to drive independent learning.
- Enhance communication skills through presentations, podcasts, and digital storytelling.
- Strengthen collaboration through peer projects and group problem-solving.
- Cultivate creativity and innovation by designing original products and solutions.
- Apply critical thinking to analyze, compare, and synthesize information across multiple perspectives.
- Gain confidence and pride by presenting their work at the annual GT Fair.

Assessment & Reflection

- Students will present final products (e.g., quilt squares, podcasts, digital exhibits, prototypes) to peers, families, or the school community.
- Rubrics will be used to evaluate creativity, research, problem-solving, and communication.
- Reflection opportunities will be built into each project, encouraging students to self-assess growth in skills and content mastery.

Program Support

- Collaboration between GT specialist and classroom teachers to integrate enrichment opportunities.
- Access to digital platforms, library resources, and maker-space tools to support PBL.
- Family engagement through project showcases, digital museum nights, the GT Fair, or podcast listening events.