Lake Stevens School District Highly Capable Program

Family presentation, spring 2026

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HiCap Coordinator - Samantha Sauter

Inspiring Excellence

LAKE STEVENS
School District

Raise your hand if...

- Your child has learned a new concept with only 1 or 2 repetitions.
- Your child has expressed intense curiosity about a topic and wanted to know everything about the topic.
- Your child has complained and became fixated about a tag on their shirt, seam on their sock, buzzing noise of a light, etc.
- Your child has struggled because something they produced was not perfect.
- Your child has struggled with peer relationships.
- Your child has difficulty staying organized or remembering simple day-to-day tasks (bringing their lunchbox to school, getting a permission slip signed by a parent, etc.).

Characteristics of Gifted Students

- Ability to learn quickly in their area(s) of intellectual strength.
- Capacity and willingness to deal with increasing levels of abstraction and complexity earlier than their chronological peers.
- Capacity to learn with unusual depth of understanding, retain what has been learned, and transfer learning to new situations.
- Creative ability to make unusual connections among ideas and concepts.
- Capacity for intense concentration and/or focus.

Characteristics Continued

- Perfectionism
- Asynchronous Development - discrepancy between chronological age and mental age
- Overexcitabilities - increased awareness, sensitivity, and intensity
- Difficulty with social/emotional development and peer relations
- Avoidance of risk taking
- Executive Function - inability to get things done, forgetfulness, lack of organization

CogAT®

Riverside Insights

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Overview of *CogAT* for Parents

What is the *Cognitive Abilities Test*™ (*CogAT*®)?

Cognitive ability refers to a student's readiness to learn in different situations and environments and demonstrate creative problem-solving skills. Unlike a traditional achievement test, which measures how well a student has mastered the curriculum, the *Cognitive Abilities Test* (*CogAT*) shows us how well a child can reason abstractly and identify patterns and relationships in the world around them.

The *CogAT* measures reasoning in three areas, also called batteries, that are based on the most important ways students and teachers communicate in the classroom: **Verbal**, **Nonverbal**, and **Quantitative**.
Figure 1 shows the types of items that can be found in each battery of the *CogAT*.
Figure 2 shows a sample item from each subtest (second grade level).

Figure 1

Types of Reasoning Assessed

CogAT®

Riverside Insights

An important note about test scores

Your child is a unique human being, with numerous immeasurable personal qualities and characteristics that will shape their contribution to the world. It is important to understand that the *CogAT*, though very useful in finding the potential in our students, is just one assessment, and results can vary depending on a variety of external factors. While these scores are an invaluable illustration of a student's academic abilities, they are not the only measurement of your child's abilities and skills. Multiple types of assessments, data points, and observations are used by your child's school to determine their needs. We hope that the *Ability Profile* serves as one valuable tool for you and your child's teacher to support your child as they learn and grow into their full potential.

Additional resources

Getting to Know CogAT for Parents (video)

CogAT.com

How to Support Your Learner at Home

How to Conference with Your Child's Teacher

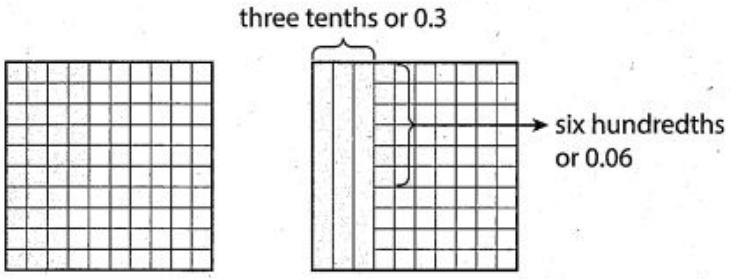
How to Talk with Your Child about Their Learning

Elementary HiCap Program

- **Kindergarten - 1st Grade:** Students receive differentiated instruction (accelerated learning, advanced instruction, and challenging content) within the regular classroom.
- **2nd - 5th Grades:** Students are clustered in one or more classrooms at each grade level and receive accelerated and enriched instruction.
- **3rd - 5th Grades:** Students receive approximately 30 minutes per week of additional enrichment activities with the librarian or HiCap Coordinator (creative thinking, extension of classroom learning, problem solving, social skills, STEM).

Math Example - 4th Grade Classwork

You can use models to show the fraction $\frac{36}{100}$ as the **decimal** 0.36.



36 hundredths (0.36) is 3 tenths (0.3) and 6 hundredths (0.06).

You can use a place-value chart to write the mixed number $4\frac{36}{100}$ as a decimal.

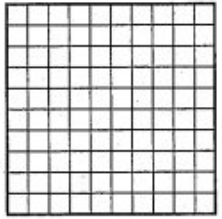
decimal point

Ones	.	Tenths	Hundredths
4	.	3	6

whole number

number less than 1

1. Shade the model below to show 0.34.



2. Show 0.34 in the place-value chart.

Ones	.	Tenths	Hundredths
	.		

3. Write 0.34 in words. .....

4. Write 0.34 as a fraction. .....

Math Example - 4th Grade HiCap Classwork

In a ***Numberlink*** puzzle, the goal is to connect pairs of numbers that are equal.

- Paths may only go up, down, left, or right through squares.
- Paths must begin and end at a number, but they may not pass through squares that contain numbers.
- Only one path may pass through each square.

Below is an example of a Numberlink puzzle and its solution. Each path connects a fraction to its equivalent decimal.

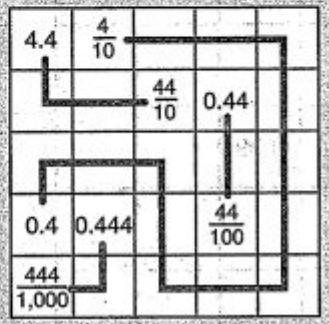
4.4	$\frac{4}{10}$			
		$\frac{44}{10}$	0.44	
0.4	0.444		$\frac{44}{100}$	
$\frac{444}{1,000}$				

$\frac{4}{10} = 0.4$

$\frac{44}{10} = 4.4$

$\frac{44}{100} = 0.44$

$\frac{444}{1,000} = 0.444$



PRACTICE Let A and B be digits such that $A > B > 0$. Fill each circle below with <, >, or =.

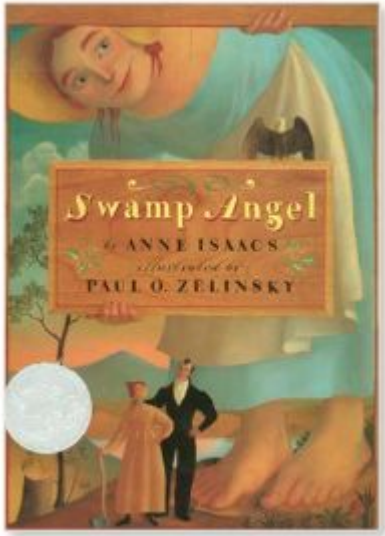
118. $0.A$ ◯ $0.B$ **119.** $0.0A$ ◯ $0.B$ **120.** $B.B$ ◯ $B.AB$

145. ★ Alex writes every possible arrangement of the digits 3, 4, 5, and 6 with a decimal point between two of the digits. How many of Alex's numbers round to 5 when rounded to the nearest whole number?

- Assignments are more rigorous
- Students dive more in depth into concepts to gain a deeper understanding
- Students apply their understanding into various contexts
- Instruction is accelerated

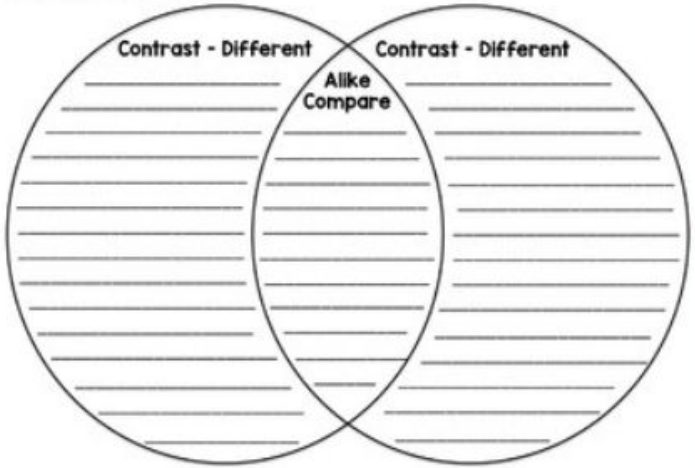
ELA Example - 2nd Grade Classwork

- Students study the elements of fairy tales and tall tales.
- Students read *Swamp Angel* and discuss the elements of fictional stories.
- Students discuss key vocabulary words in the text.
- Students identify the characters, setting, beginning, middle, and end of the text.
- Students write about the plot of the text.



ELA Example - 2nd Grade HiCap Classwork

- Students read *Swamp Angel* and discuss the elements of fictional stories.
- Students participate in a book club reading a higher level fairy tale or tall tale text.
- Students discuss the elements of the higher level text.
- Students work independently to create a presentation illustrating the similarities and differences between the two texts.



More Examples of Differentiation

- Independent work on i-Ready which individualizes the pathway of instruction for each student based on their diagnostic assessment results
- Final projects that demonstrate understanding of a concept
- Using Depth and Complexity icons/concepts as a lens for thinking and discussion about classroom topics
- Passion projects
- Project based learning

Elementary HiCap Cluster Classrooms

Students in a 2nd grade class think critically about a text and use Google Slides to create a presentation about the text.

Students in a 3rd grade class use manipulatives to solve algebraic equations.

HiCap Enrichment with Librarians

Students at Mount Pilchuck collaborate to solve a BreakoutEDU.

Students at Hillcrest learn about forces and motion by creating catapult systems with Legos.

Students at Skyline developed code for a Sphero Bolt to travel through a course.

Secondary HiCap Program

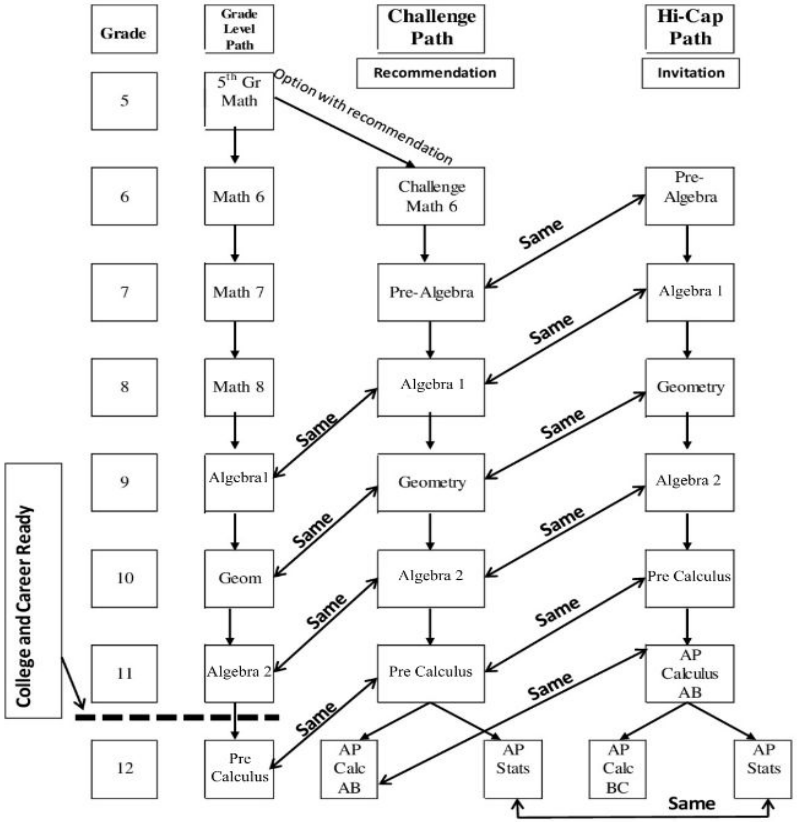
- **Middle School:**
  - Students are automatically enrolled in Pre-algebra (mathematics) and Advanced Challenge Language Arts (ELA) if qualified going into 6th grade.
  - Curriculum is compacted and accelerated
  - Students work on higher level projects/assignments

- **High School:**
  - Students can continue on accelerated tracks and have Pre-AP and Advanced Placement (AP) options or College in the High School courses
  - Advanced courses in science, history, language, and career and technical education (CTE) are offered starting in 8th grade
  - Families can work with guidance counselors at any time to alternate pathways

ELA Course Pathways

Grade	Gen Ed	Challenge	Advanced Challenge
6	**Language Arts 6**	**Challenge LA 6** (6th and 7th grade standards)	**Advanced Challenge LA 6** (7th grade standards)
7	**Language Arts 7**	**Challenge LA 7** (7th and 8th grade standards)	**Advanced Challenge LA 7** (8th grade standards)
8	**Language Arts 8**	**Challenge 8** (9th grade standards and curriculum)	
9	**English 9**	**Pre-AP 9** (10th grade standards and curriculum)	
10	**English 10**	*Choose high school courses each year:*	
		English 11	**AP Language & Composition**
11	**English 11**	*Choose 2:* **senior English electives** (list at left)	**AP Literature & Composition**
12	*Choose 2 senior English electives:* **Novels, Creative Writing, British Literature, World Literature, Journalism, Pacific NW Literature** or opt into **AP Lit.** or **UW English**	*Choose a different 2* **senior English electives** (list at left) **OR** **UW English** (open to seniors with B+ average)	

Math Course Pathways



Family Communication

in addition to typical school/teacher communication

Elementary:

- Two-way communication with teacher, librarian, and families
- Student Assessment Profile and Learning Plan (example on next slide)

Secondary:

- Teachers report grades every 6 weeks
- Counselors are a great point of contact if current class placements are not working for your child

Highly Capable Student Assessment Profile & Learning Plan

[redacted]

Generated on 10/12/2023 at 4:26 p.m.

LAKE STEVENS School District

Lake Stevens School District
12309 22Nd St Ne
Lake Stevens WA 982589500

Highly Capable Learning Plan

LAKE STEVENS School District

Name: [redacted]

This profile is an overview of recent testing and assessment for [redacted] While you likely received previous communications regarding some of these scores, this document is intended to give you an overview of all current assessment data for your child.

Current Assessment Information for [redacted]

Assessment	When	Minimum Passing Score	Perf. Level	Met Std	Score
i-Ready Spring Grade 2 Math Overall	2022/23	428	Mid or Above Grade Level	Yes	473
i-Ready Spring Grade 2 Reading Overall	2022/23	489	Mid or Above Grade Level	Yes	592
Fall 3rd Grade Oral Reading Fluency	2023/24	0	Exceeding	Yes	122
Fall 3rd Grade LETRS Phonics Survey Overall	2023/24	0	Proficient	Yes	57
Fall 3rd Grade Vowel Teams	2023/24	0	Proficient	Yes	17
Fall 3rd Grade Mixed Syllable -le	2023/24	0	Proficient	Yes	9
Fall 3rd Grade Base Inflectional	2023/24	0	Proficient	Yes	9
Fall 3rd Grade Compound Words	2023/24	0	Proficient	Yes	12
i-Ready Fall Grade 3 Math Overall	2023/24	449	Mid or Above Grade Level	Yes	477
i-Ready Fall Grade 3 Number and Operations	2023/24	444	Mid or Above Grade Level	Yes	483
i-Ready Fall Grade 3 Reading Overall	2023/24	511	Mid or Above Grade Level	Yes	580
i-Ready Fall Grade 3 Algebra and Algebraic Thinking	2023/24	446	Mid or Above Grade Level	Yes	463
i-Ready Fall Grade 3 Measurement and Data	2023/24	446	Mid or Above Grade Level	Yes	498
i-Ready Fall Grade 3 Geometry	2023/24	451	Mid or Above Grade Level	Yes	464
i-Ready Fall Grade 3 Vocabulary	2023/24	514	Mid or Above Grade Level	Yes	559
i-Ready Fall Grade 3 Comprehension Literature	2023/24	514	Mid or Above Grade Level	Yes	591
i-Ready Fall Grade 3 Comprehension Informational Text	2023/24	514	Mid or Above Grade Level	Yes	589

To address your child's needs for acceleration and extension, the following opportunities will be provided this school year:

- ☐ Extension opportunities with librarian 3 hours a month (3rd - 5th)
- ☐ Book club with HiCap book list texts (2nd - 5th)
- ☐ Small group math instruction targeting advanced standards as identified by i-Ready diagnostic (2nd - 5th)
- ☐ Inquiry-based projects related to grade level content (2nd - 5th)
- ☐ Other: _____

Goals for your student this year:

Lake Stevens School District
12309 22Nd St Ne
Lake Stevens WA 982589500

FAQ

Q: If my student is accepted into the HiCap program, do they get tested every year to stay in the program?

A: Once a student is qualified for HiCap, they will not continue to take the CogAT each year; they will just be assessed using the state and district assessments to identify growth and instructional needs; they do not need to be nominated again once qualified.

Q: If my student moves to another district, will he or she still qualify for HiCap?

A: Since each district has their own HiCap identification process, students may or may not have to retest for a different district's HiCap program depending on the district's qualification standards.

Q: If my student is in challenging classes at the secondary level, can they move to less challenging courses?

A: We have many rigorous courses that students can take in 6th-12th grades. As students start to find passions and strengths, they may not want to have a courseload of all the most challenging classes in every subject area. Your child's guidance counselor is the best one to discuss options that will be the best fit for your child.

Q: In elementary school, how do teachers differentiate to meet different student's needs?

A: Every teacher will do this differently depending on the students in their class that year. This could look like using assessment data to compact lessons, providing extension activities to go deeper into a topic, providing more rigorous reading material to work on the same skills, etc. You can contact your child's teacher to learn more about how they are meeting your child's specific needs.

Q: Can I nominate my first or fourth grader even if they do not score high on the NNAT screener?

A: Absolutely! We will send home letters to those families whose child scored in the 89th %ile or higher on the screener, but any child in K-12 can be nominated during the November open nomination window. Information will be emailed to all families and come home with elementary students as well at the beginning of November.

Q: If my child only qualified in one area, can I renominate to test just in the other area?

A: Yes. During the open nomination window, you can nominate your child to take the CogAT just in quantitative (math) or verbal (ELA) if they are already in the HiCap program in the other qualifying area. This will not impact their current qualification.

Parent Resources

- Lake Stevens HiCap Program - https://www.lkstevens.wednet.edu/our-programs/highly-capable-program-hicap
- SENG *(Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted)* - https://www.sengifted.org/
- NAGC *(National Association of Gifted Children)* - https://www.nagc.org/
- NWGCA *(Northwest Gifted Child Association)* - http://www.nwgca.org/
- Blogs for Parents - https://neurodiversitypodcast.com/ and https://www.giftedguru.com/
- Overview of CogAT - https://info.riversideinsights.com/hubfs/CitC/Overview_of_CogAT_for_Parents.pdf

For use with your child:

- Khan Academy - https://www.khanacademy.org/
- Learn a Language - http://ww1.duallingo.com/
- Coding - https://hourofcode.com/us
- Articles and Resources - https://www.byrdseed.com/about/

Contact Information

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