

Barnhart School

Gifted Learning Program

Nurturing Curiosity. Inspiring Excellence





A Thoughtful Approach to Gifted Education

At Barnhart School, we recognize that some students demonstrate advanced abilities, deep curiosity, and a need for greater academic challenge.

Our Gifted Learning Program is designed to meet these needs through a balanced approach that supports both intellectual growth and social-emotional development.

Students remain part of their homeroom community while also participating in specialized learning experiences that extend and enrich the core curriculum.

How The Program Works

Our program follows a pull-out enrichment model:

- Students leave their regular classroom for **60 minutes** on a rotating schedule
- Instruction takes place in small groups of like-minded peers
- Students continue to receive core instruction in their homeroom classrooms

This model ensures that students benefit from both **community connection** and **advanced academic challenge**.

What Students Experience

During our gifted learning block, students engage in:

- Project-Based Learning (PBL) that connects to real-world challenges
- Critical thinking and problem-solving activities
- Advanced discussions and inquiry-based exploration
- Creative expression and innovation opportunities
- Cross-disciplinary learning experiences

Each session is designed to encourage students to think deeply, ask questions, and explore beyond the standard curriculum.

Benefits of the Program

Gifted learners often demonstrate:

- Advanced academic skills in reading, writing, or mathematics
- A strong sense of curiosity and a desire to explore topics in depth
- The ability to think abstractly and make complex connections
- Creativity, originality, and innovative thinking
- Rapid learning and strong retention of new concepts

Because giftedness can present in many ways, we consider the whole child when identifying students who may benefit from this program.



Why Small Multi-Age Group Learning Matters

In a small group setting, students are able to:

- Dive deeper into complex ideas and concepts
- Engage in meaningful dialogue with intellectual peers
- Work at an accelerated and flexible pace
- Build confidence in expressing ideas and taking risks
- Strengthen collaboration and leadership skills

The environment allows a teacher to provide **targeted instruction** that both challenges and supports each learner.



Our Goals

The Barnhart School Gifted Learning Program is designed to:

- Cultivate curiosity and a lifelong love of learning
- Develop critical thinking and analytical skills
- Encourage creativity, innovation, and student voice
- Support social-emotional growth alongside academic development
- Provide meaningful opportunities for depth, complexity, and exploration

A Balanced Educational Experience

We believe that gifted education should enhance, not replace, the core classroom experience. Our program ensures that students:

- Stay connected to their classroom community
- Build strong foundational skills
- Experience appropriate levels of challenge
- Grow as confident, thoughtful, and engaged learners



Admissions Into GLP

Part of the admissions process for grades K-8 includes submitting the results of an IQ assessment. Barnhart School will accept the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence, Fourth Edition (WPPSI-IV) for children between 3 years 10 months and 5 years and 11 months of age.

We will also accept the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, Fifth Edition (WISC-V) for children 6 years old or older. The Wechsler Intelligence Quotient (IQ) assessment is an individually administered assessment for children that yields a measure of general intelligence and knowledge.

The IQ assessment samples various cognitive and intellectual functions, such as language and mathematical ability, reasoning skills, and perceptual-motor abilities. However, it does not capture other important aspects of a child, such as motivation, curiosity, creativity, the ability to transition, and social and self-help skills. These attributes are assessed later through other aspects of the admissions process.

The IQ assessment serves as an initial screening step in the application process to determine if Barnhart is a potential match for the child. It provides a snapshot of the child's cognitive skills at a particular point in time. Students with a Full Scale Wechsler IQ Score around 130 (98th percentile) and above are more likely to be successful in the program.

Partnering With Families

We value our partnership with families in supporting each child's unique learning journey. If you believe your child may benefit from the Gifted Learning Program or would like to learn more, we welcome the opportunity to connect with you!