



The Academically Gifted Program

The Academically Gifted Program provides students who demonstrate high levels of ability with the experiences and opportunities they need to achieve in accordance with their capabilities.

Children displaying characteristics of academically gifted students in grades kindergarten through grade four are encouraged to participate in high-level activities that meet their individual needs and interests. Challenges are provided through differentiated instruction within the regular classroom. Additionally, the **Junior Great Books** program is utilized for enrichment in grades three and four. The **Junior Great Books** program promotes analytical thinking in conjunction with enjoyment of quality literature. An enrichment teacher is available to the elementary schools on a rotating basis to implement the program.

Students in grades K-2 are informally identified by classroom teachers through comparison with behavioral traits common to gifted students. In the spring of third grade students are screened for formal admittance to the mathematics program, humanities program, or both. Following nomination for eligibility by parents, teachers, and/or community members, candidates receive a number of formal and informal assessments. Program eligibility is determined by a district screening committee of teachers and administrators using the results of these assessments and parent/teacher input.

The fifth and sixth grade academically gifted program has several components. In math students participate in Advanced Math Seminar – a program analytical in nature with a focus on problem solving delivered at an accelerated pace. Humanities combines the **Junior Great Books**; units of study to build upon and expand curriculum; and consultancy with classroom teachers by the teacher of the gifted. The seventh and eighth grade program consists of course offerings in both humanities and advanced math. The humanities course involves the use of advanced research skills, discussion and activities that extend the core curriculum. Math continues Advanced Math Seminar series. At the high school level both Honors and Advanced Placement courses meet the needs of academically gifted students.