

## R 2464 GIFTED AND TALENTED PUPILS

### Philosophy

The district believes that pupils learn in diverse ways and that all pupils have the right to an education that will help them develop to their potential. Our belief is that enriched curricula and activities will both challenge pupils and help them to develop their strengths. Activities to engender independence and responsibility are the focus of the programming for enrichment. All activities encourage pupils to practice decision making, time management, group process, and higher order thinking skills and to foster a desire on the part of pupils to share their abilities as citizens and leaders in their world.

### Focused Enrichment

Focused enrichment activities are provided for pupils in pull-out format over the course of the school year in various areas of interest and ability. With parental consent, pupils and teachers devise a schedule so that minimal classroom work is missed.

### Identification Process for Focused Enrichment

Battle of the Minds (Grades 5-6): An average of math and language arts scores on a standardized test. Teacher recommendation required;

Battle of the Books (Grades 3-4 and 5-6): These two pupil teams compete with other schools in the county;

Math, Science and Technology (Grades Kindergarten-3): Pupils are recommended for math and science standardized testing by classroom teachers. Pupil's standardized test scores, their previous year's report card grade (except Kindergarten) and parent/teacher recommendations are placed on a weighted matrix to determine eligibility in the program;

Humanities (Grades Kindergarten-3): Pupils are recommended for reading and language arts standardized testing by their classroom teachers. Pupil's standardized test scores, their previous year's reading and language arts report card grades (except Kindergarten) and parent/teacher recommendations are placed on a weighted matrix to determine eligibility in the program;

Science (Grades 4-6): Pupil is recommended for standardized testing by their classroom teachers. Pupil's standardized test score, previous year's science report card grade, parent and teacher recommendations are placed on a weighted matrix to determine eligibility in the program;

Language Arts (Grades 4-6): Pupil's standardized test scores, the previous year's language arts report card grade, teacher and parent recommendations are placed on a weighted matrix to determine eligibility in the program;

Reading (Grades 4-6): Pupil's standardized test scores, the previous year's reading report card grade, teacher and parent recommendations are placed on a weighted matrix to determine eligibility in the program;

Math (Grades 4-6): Pupil's standardized test scores, the previous year's math report card grade, teacher and parent recommendations are placed on a weighted matrix to determine eligibility in the program; and

Instrumental Music (Grades 4-6): Pupils are eligible to participate in a full range of instrumental band activities including the "Beginner Band", "Blue and White Band", and the very popular "Jazz Band".

## Gifted and Talented Program

### Identification Process for Gifted and Talented Pupils

1. Pupils are identified through a multi-step process. At the close of the school year, standardized testing results are closely reviewed. At the end of each grade level, classroom teachers submit to the enrichment coordinator a list of pupils recommended for testing. These pupils are given the SAGE test. The results of the SAGE are entered into a weighted matrix along with report card grades, standardized scores in math, reading, and language. Then, based on a final score from the matrix, pupils are placed in the gifted and talented group. These pupils participate during the next academic year. Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may nominate their child for the gifted program; and
2. Pupils must achieve the matrix standard each year in order to remain in the program. Therefore, pupils who are identified as gifted and talented for the school year will have their standardized test scores automatically reviewed at the end of that school year to determine eligibility for the following year.