

GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM 2021-2022

Program Description

Enrichment education is an integral part of the New Providence School District's curricular program, including services for students identified as "gifted and talented" and for all students as an extension of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, grades K-6. Enrichment education is an opportunity for students to expand their intellectual and creative capacities at an appropriate level commensurate with students' educational and social development and their specific abilities, talents, and interests. The New Providence School District's K – 6 Gifted and Talented Program is committed to identifying students who exhibit characteristics of general intellectual ability and to meet their special learning needs. Our responsibility to provide an excellent education for these children requires developing their special abilities and talents as well as addressing their social and emotional needs. In addition, the program is committed to stimulating educational opportunities which encourage each child to strive for excellence and fulfill her/his potential. The New Providence School District Gifted and Talented Services are centered on a three-tiered approach to afford flexibility to meet the varying needs, abilities and interests of students. The services include:

Tier 1: Enrichment within the Regular Classroom Setting (K – 6)

- **Differentiation** - To differentiate instruction is to recognize students' varying background knowledge, readiness, language, styles in learning, and interests; and to react responsively. Differentiated instruction is a strategy for teaching learners of differing abilities in the same classroom. Within the regular classroom, teachers will differentiate the process, product, content, and learning environment.
 - Differentiation includes leveled and tiered curriculum materials, tiered assignments, interdisciplinary and independent project work, interest and learning centers, and flexible skills grouping.
- **STEM Investigations** – All students will be immersed in educational experiences that focus on real-world issues and problems, incorporate the engineering design process, and provide for hands-on inquiry and open-ended exploration.

Tier 2: Enrichment beyond the Regular Classroom

- **Enrichment Events (K – 6) / Clubs (Grs. 1 – 6)** - Experiences for all children to be enriched through events related to the curricular or extracurricular activities. Examples include: after-school clubs, PTA sponsored events, leadership opportunities, visual and performing arts, and community service opportunities.
- **Pull-Out program (Grs. 4 – 6)** - Opportunities for identified students in a particular aptitude to participate in small group theme-based units, activities and projects. Based on student strengths, they will be invited to participate in one or more mods of small group activities. The program will be broken into thematic cycles, with each cycle having an emphasis on 21st Century and Technology Standards.

- **Criteria for the Gifted and Talented Pull-out Program are as follows:**
 - Cognitive Abilities Test score of 130 or higher. This test is administered in 3rd and 5th grades.
 - Teachers' College Reading Assessment (September 2021 administration)
 - 90 or higher on locally-administered test for Math
 - Average grade of "A" in both Language Arts and Math during the 2020-2021 school year.
*This criteria will not be used for incoming 4th graders as they do not receive letter grades in 3rd grade. Incoming 4th graders who meet the other criteria will be administered a district-approved test.
 - New Jersey Department of Education Tests: NJSLA Total ELA score of 780 or higher and Total Math score of 780 or higher. *This criteria will not be in place for the 2022-2022 school year as the tests were not administered.

Tier 3 - Enrichment and Inquiry in the Mathematics Classroom (Grs. 4 – 6)

- G&T teacher will collaborate with the regular education teacher to support in-class enrichment math activities, as needed.
- G&T teacher will provide enrichment resources that can be used as needed.
- G&T teacher will work with students who need and desire additional enrichment in math by creating an individual Passion Project: Area of Inquiry related to math.
- Criteria to be considered for Tier 3 Passion Project: Area of Inquiry are as follows:
 - Cognitive Abilities Test score of 140 or higher. This test is administered in 3rd and 5th grades.
 - 95 or higher on locally-administered test for Math
 - Average grade of "A" in Math during the 1st trimester of the 2021-2022 school year.
 - New Jersey Department of Education Test: NJSLA Total Math score of 780 or higher. *This criteria will not be in place for the 2021-2022 school year as the tests were not administered.

Once initial criteria is met, a parent meeting will be held with the G&T teacher, classroom teacher, and building administrator to discuss the inquiry project.

Please contact any of us with any questions.

Jeannie Drexinger, Principal, Salt Brook School
 Robyn Greenwald, Principal, Allen W. Roberts School
 Paula Vieira, Teacher, Gifted and Talented
 Jay Richter, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Supervision