

**NEW PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ALLEN W. ROBERTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SALT BROOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

September 11, 2018

Dear Parents,

The New Providence School District has continued with revisions to our K-6 Gifted and Talented program. The revisions reflect the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, our district initiatives, and our students' current academic needs. We are writing to inform you of those changes that will begin with the 2018-2019 school year. Below is the program description and overview of services. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact your building Principal.

K – 6 GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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:
 - New Jersey Department of Education Tests: PARCC Total ELA (780 or higher) and Total Math (780 or higher). These tests are administered in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades.
 - Cognitive Abilities Test (130 or higher). This test is administered in 3rd and 5th grades.
 - Additional screening /assessment tools i.e. TC assessment, report card grades, end of the year math assessment.

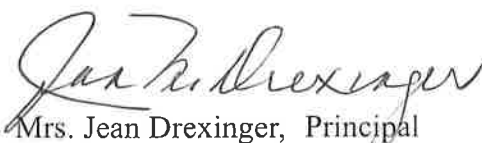
* Information regarding the Gifted and Talented Pull-Out program will be sent out later this month.

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

- G&T teacher will collaborate with 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: Mathematics grade of “A”; PARCC Score in Math 780 or higher; and Cognitive Abilities Test 140 or higher.
 - 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.

Sincerely,


Mrs. Gina Hansen, Principal
Allen W. Roberts Elementary School


Mrs. Jean Drexinger, Principal
Salt Brook Elementary School