

Program Goals

Students participating in the elementary gifted support enrichment programs will:

1. Explore and develop potential interest areas.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the kinds of communication and tools that enhance communication.
3. Understand and apply the skills of creative thinking.
4. Use sequential thinking processes and develop confidence in their analytical thinking skills.
5. Develop and strengthen research skills by locating and selecting appropriate resource materials from libraries and other sources and use that information to develop reports, prepare projects and make oral presentations.
6. Combine the skills of creative and critical thinking and apply them to problem-solving situations.
7. Develop social and leadership skills.
8. Develop enhanced computer and multi-media skills through the use of specialized software.
9. Use flexible pacing in math where appropriate.

Resources

Questions regarding Gifted Education should be directed to:

Richard Coulter,
Gifted Education Coordinator
District Service Center
201 West Third Street
Williamsport, PA 17701
570-327-5500 ext 3517
rcoulter@wasd.org

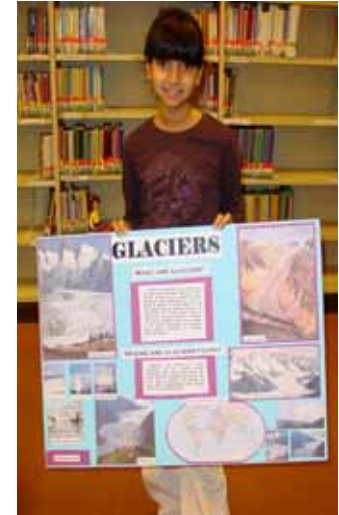
A comprehensive gifted resource library is available in the WASD Gifted Education office. Additional information regarding gifted education can be obtained through the following organizations:

WASD Gifted Education
<http://www.wasd.org/gifted>
Pennsylvania Association for Gifted Education
<http://www.penngifted.org>
National Association for Gifted Education
<http://www.nagc.org>
Pennsylvania Department of Education
<http://www.pde.state.pa.us>



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Gifted Education WASD K-5 Elementary Program



Is Your Child Gifted?

It's rare to find a child who is "gifted across the board." Most gifted children are more likely to be gifted in one or two specific areas, and average or even below average in others. The following list of gifted learning and behavioral characteristics may be helpful in identifying a gifted learner. Keep in mind that few students will exhibit all of these characteristics.

CURIOS: keen observer; alert, inquisitive nature; questions the how and why of things; eager.

RAPID LEARNER: quickly masters facts; retains and applies information; needs minimal instruction on routine tasks.

SOCIALLY AWARE: sensitive and intuitive; empathizes with others; flexible and open in manner; concerned with values and ideals.

ENJOYS READING: reads a wide range of materials for information and pleasure; uses reference works effectively at an early age.

VERBAL PROFICIENCY: possesses an advanced vocabulary; expresses him or herself fluently; shows humor; asks probing questions.

RESPONSIBLE: works independently; needs minimal directions; organizes tasks, peers, and events; often serves as a leader; respected by peers.

CRITICAL THINKING: analyzes and is logical; reasons out complicated thinking.

CREATIVE: imaginative, versatile, and adaptable; flexible in ideas and actions; possesses problem-solving ability.

GENERALIZES: perceives and abstracts ideas; sees relationships; grasps underlying principles; integrates areas of knowledge.

SPECIAL ABILITY: possesses unusual interest and aptitude in an academic area.

RESOURCEFUL: a producer who has a knack for using the limited resources, time, and people in a learning environment to achieve outstanding results; generates new ideas and viewpoints; proposes novel solutions.



Gifted Screening and Evaluation

Identification of children for the gifted program, as a formal process, takes place in the spring of each year. Parents will be informed of teacher referrals through their school's Instructional Support Team (IST). Students who exemplify gifted characteristics early in the school year or who move into the district may be referred to the Instructional Support Team at any time at any grade level.

As a parent, you are uniquely qualified to know your child's learning strengths and weaknesses. Parents who believe their child may need gifted education services should contact their building principal and request, **in writing**, that their child receive a gifted screening and/or evaluation.



The WASD Gifted Education Program is committed to educational excellence. We believe that gifted students are not all alike, and have the right to be challenged every day in school. Our goal is to provide an environment where students can maximize their exceptional ability and potential.

Examples of strategies used by the Elementary Gifted specialists include:

- Academic clustering
- Individualized enrichment
- Flexible pacing and acceleration
- Independent study
- Distance learning
- Special Activities and projects
- Thematic integrated approaches

The WASD Gifted Education Advisory Council

The District's gifted program is monitored by the WASD Gifted Education Advisory Council (GEAC). The mission of the Council is to provide ongoing assessment and suggestions to ensure that our program provides for the needs of all gifted students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. GEAC Membership is open to all interested parents, teachers, administrators and community members. Meetings are scheduled quarterly throughout the year. Check the website for dates. Contact the WASD Gifted office if you wish to participate.

www.wasd.org/gifted