

“Gifted” means students who perform or show potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared to others of their age, experience, or environment and who are identified under division (A), (B), (C), or (D) of section 3324.03 of the Ohio Revised Code.

GIFTED IDENTIFICATION & SCREENING

A student is identified as gifted based upon nationally-normed standardized tests administered by the school district. A student may be identified as gifted in the areas of superior cognitive ability, specific academic ability (math and reading), and visual or performing arts ability.

The District administers whole-grade group tests for all students in the 2nd and 6th grades using the Terra Nova/Inview and grades K-10 using MAP (Measure of Academic Progress). If a student meets the screening score (94th percentile) on these standardized tests, a letter will be sent to parents requesting permission to administer another assessment to determine if the student meets the gifted identification criteria (95th percentile or above). Parents will be notified with results within 30 days of the screening.

The CH-UH school district provides two opportunities per year for assessment (whole grade testing and through request). Requests can come from children, parents, teachers or others (psychologist, community members, principal and gifted personnel). Please refer to the ODE documents on the district's website and in the Office of the Gifted Coordinator at the Board of Education for specific information about screening and identification scores in regards to students being nominated for the Visual and Performing Arts.

GENERAL

The CH-UH City School District accepts scores on assessment instruments approved for use by the Ohio Department of Education, provided by other school districts and/or trained personnel outside the school district.

Testing will be provided in a child's native language and/or translating/ELL services will be provided to accomplish assessment for the purpose of gifted screening/identification. Students with physical and/or sensory disabilities will be given accommodations as per IEPs and/or 504 plans to ensure assessment for the purpose of screening/identification as gifted is valid and reliable. A variety of tests identified as valid for special populations (via external research) are used in assessment for the purpose of gifted screening and identification.

SERVICES

Early Admission to Kindergarten or 1st Grade

Parents may request early admission into Kindergarten if your child turns five years of age after September 30 and before January 1. If your child turns six years of age after January 1, and has not yet completed Kindergarten, and you believe they are a viable candidate for Early Entrance to 1st grade, parents may request early entrance to 1st grade.

Elementary Gifted Services

The CH-UH City School District ensures equal opportunity of district students identified as gifted in specific areas to receive services offered by the district. Written Education Plans (WEPs) will be created for all served students within our district.

P.E.T.S. Program (enrichment)

All Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade students in the district will receive enrichment in critical and creative thinking skills through the P.E.T.S. (Primary Education Thinking Skills) program. A gifted intervention specialist works with classroom teachers to provide the programming.

Self Contained Classroom

Students in grades 4 and 5 identified as gifted in Superior Cognitive, Math, Reading, Science, Social Studies and or Creative Thinking have the opportunity to apply for the self-contained gifted classrooms, by application process. Students are serviced by a full time licensed gifted teacher.

Elementary School Scholars Program (ESSP)

Students in grades K-5 (all elementary buildings) identified as gifted in Reading, Math, and/or Superior Cognitive will be serviced by a licensed gifted teacher in a resource room pullout model. They will receive services for 15% of their instructional time.

Middle School Scholars Program (MSSP)

The Middle School Scholars Program is offered to students in Grades 6-8 who are identified as gifted in any area. Students have the opportunity to register for a minimum of five periods of coursework that are taken weekly on a pull-out basis from regular classes. MSSP offerings include: Between the Lines, Creative Design, Experimental Design, Find Out (6th grade only) Global Issues, FLEX 7th grade only, Guided Independent Projects, and Innovative Thinking. Other accelerative options may include above grade level courses, grade level acceleration, subject acceleration, and enrichment opportunities within the regular classroom. Students will receive services to equal 15% of their core content time in intervention and enrichment for identified subject areas.

High School Offerings

Cleveland Heights High School offers Advanced Placement courses as a form of gifted service to students with gifted identifications aligned to selected courses. Select AP coursework will be considered gifted service for students in grades 10-12.

Acceleration Options

Accelerative opportunities include whole grade level acceleration, subject acceleration, early entrance to Kindergarten and early high school graduation (this last option is handled directly at the high school).

APPEAL PROCEDURE

An appeal by the parent/guardian is the reconsideration of the results of any part of the identification process which would include:

- The screening procedure or assessment instrument used
- The scheduling of the assessment
- The placement of the student in any program
- The receipt of services

Parents/guardians should submit a letter outlining the specifics of the appeal and the nature of the concern(s) to the Coordinator of Gifted & Fine Arts. The Coordinator of Gifted & Fine Arts will convene a meeting with the parent/guardian, which may include other school personnel. The Coordinator will issue a written final decision within thirty days after the meeting. This written notice will include the reason for the decision(s).

WITHDRAWAL

If at any time, a parent/guardian wishes to withdraw a child from the gifted program or services, the request should be in writing by the parent/guardian and sent to the building administrator and the Coordinator of Gifted & Fine Arts. If a child requests to withdraw, parents/guardians will be notified.

TRANSFER

The district ensures that any child transferring into the district will be assessed within 90 days of the transfer, at the request of the parent. Parents should contact the building principal with their request.

GIFTED DEPARTMENT STAFF

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Elementary Gifted Intervention Specialists:

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Middle School Gifted Intervention Specialists:

Suzanne Nelson

John Powaski

Britny Snodgrass

Advanced Placement @ Heights High School:

Sherri Bellini

Katie Maric

District Testing, K-12:

Katie Maric

Suzanne Nelson

Gifted Services 2024-2025 Brochure for Families



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