

R 2464 GIFTED AND TALENTED PUPILS

Mission

The Randolph Township Schools Gifted/Talented Enrichment Program promotes learning through differentiation, expansion of curiosity and creativity. This is done through independent study and by providing opportunities to think at higher levels in order to develop the mind, visualize ideas and seek new approaches to problem solving. These skills are vital to our pupils' success in an ever changing world.

Philosophy

Each child is unique and has special talents. Our responsibility is to provide experiences in an atmosphere in which these talents will be nurtured and new talents will be acquired and encouraged.

Our aim is to recognize pupil interest and need, to be inclusionary and to provide differentiated experiences that are developmentally appropriate and effective for all learners.

Program Goals

1. Develop a positive self-concept through a caring environment where each pupil is valued as an individual;
2. Allow pupils to learn and interact with other pupils of similar abilities;
3. Develop critical and creative thinking and problem solving skills;
4. Develop the attitudes and skills needed for independent study and learning; and
5. Nurture gifts and talents through additional appropriate opportunities that challenge potentially gifted learners.

Selection Procedures

The selection process at the elementary level may include differentiated instruction and/or discussion and planning included in the Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS) protocol. For pupils in grades six through eight relies on multiple criteria and uses a combination of standardized and non-standardized measures. The selection of potentially gifted learners is flexible and ongoing.

Program Components

Kindergarten through Fifth

All pupils receive in-class enrichment through a variety of differentiated activities that are aligned with district curriculum. These are provided by the classroom teacher and at times, select



certificated staff members. The enrichment activities provide appropriately challenging experiences that enhance learning and develop outlets for creative and productive work for all pupils. Some pupils who demonstrate advanced and higher level ability will experience vertical movement, where it is necessary to have a student work with others at a more advanced level by working in a grade level above their placement.

Sixth through Eighth

Pupils in grades six through eight possessing unique talents and abilities are provided the opportunity to participate in a program. This population is characterized by superior academic achievement, task commitment, and creativity. The focus of the program is to provide pupils with opportunities for critical thinking and application of knowledge in meaningful and creative ways using a core of in-depth knowledge. In addition, the program provides opportunities for students to pursue topics of personal interest within a framework designed to meet the needs to their multiple intelligences.

Ninth through Twelfth

Pupils in grades nine through twelve possessing unique talents and abilities are provided the opportunity to participate in a range of academic and non-academic courses based on interest and ability. These include, but not limited to, honors and advance placement courses.

Adopted: 15 January 2013
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