

## Dysart Unified School District Frequently Asked Questions About Dysart's Gifted Services

This brochure has been written to provide parents and staff with answers to the most common questions asked about Gifted Education in the Dysart Unified School District. Dysart Unified School District is committed to providing a quality program that offers challenging experiences and nurtures academic excellence for its gifted students.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT  
DYSART'S GIFTED SERVICES CONTACT:**

**Juliann McCarthy, Ed. D, NCSP**  
Director, Special Education and Gifted  
Department  
(623) 876-7022  
or refer to the Educational Services / Gifted  
Education Link on the  
Dysart Website  
[www.dysart.org](http://www.dysart.org)

Para información en español, llamen a  
623 876-7073.

***For 2011-2012, the self-contained services will be at Canyon Ridge ONLY.*** (Please note that due to space limitations, the self-contained services may move to other campuses as the district grows and expands in future years.) If space is available, siblings may also be enrolled in the school where the gifted services are offered if the parent wishes. An Open Enrollment Form may be obtained from the school office and returned by the deadline. The transportation for siblings is the responsibility of the parents.

#### 4. What Happens After A Student Is Identified?

Students will be serviced through one of the following **programs** as determined by their test scores:

- ◆ Self-contained gifted classes (available for grades 2-8 at Canyon Ridge)
- ◆ Individual Learning Plan within the regular classroom at home school.

#### 5. What Is Differentiation?

Differentiation is diagnosing the readiness level of each student and customizing instruction so every individual experiences continuous learning. Curriculum may be differentiated in the following areas:

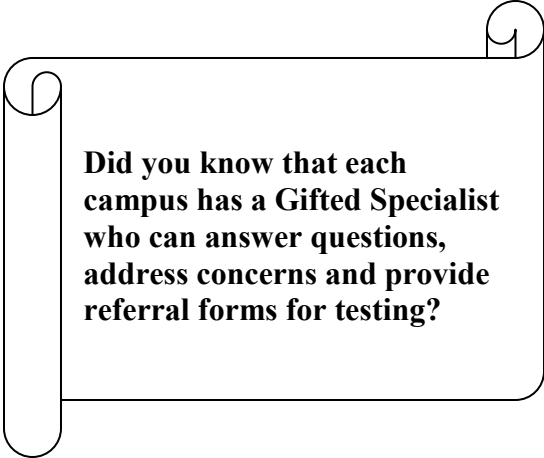
- ◆ Content
- ◆ Product
- ◆ Process
- ◆ Environment

#### 6. What Kind of Program Is Provided For My High School Student?

At the high school level, there are many options for gifted students such as advanced placement or honors classes. The International Baccalaureate Program at WCHS is an option to consider for gifted high school students. When a student registers for his/her classes, the high school counselors will recommend a plan of study.

#### 7. Where Can I Find More Information Regarding Gifted?

[www.sengifted.org](http://www.sengifted.org)  
[www.arizonagifted.org](http://www.arizonagifted.org)  
[www.hoagiesgifted.org](http://www.hoagiesgifted.org)  
[www.nagc.org](http://www.nagc.org)  
[www.ade.state.az.us](http://www.ade.state.az.us)



**Did you know that each campus has a Gifted Specialist who can answer questions, address concerns and provide referral forms for testing?**

## 1. What Does Gifted Mean?

According to United States Office of Education, gifted and talented students are those “who have outstanding abilities, are capable of high performance and who require differentiated educational programs in order to realize their contribution to self and society.”

## 2. How Is A Student Identified for Dysart's Gifted Program?

Students may be referred for gifted screening by the teacher, principal, or the parent at any time by completing a Referral Form. Students may also nominate themselves. Nominated students are then tested in verbal, quantitative, and non-verbal areas using a state-approved test.

***Beginning on April 27, 2005, students receiving gifted services must meet the following qualifications:***

- ◆ *Students who score at the 97<sup>th</sup> percentile or above in Verbal and Quantitative and score at the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile or above in Non-Verbal on a single administration of an appropriate state approved test will be offered self-contained gifted services.*
- ◆ *Students who score at the 97<sup>th</sup> percentile or above in any one or more of the subtests, will be offered Individual Learning Plan (ILP) services.*

Areas of identification include:

- ◆ **Quantitative**  
Student tends to think logically in terms of numbers and pieces of mathematical information.
- ◆ **Verbal**  
Student has the ability to effectively use words and language.
- ◆ **Non Verbal**  
Student tends to be highly skilled in regard to spatial awareness and abstract thinking through the use of mental images.

***ILP Services will be provided within the regular classroom by the regular classroom teacher.***

### New Students:

Parents must provide documentation of test scores on an Arizona approved test. Test scores will be evaluated by the Director of Gifted Education to determine whether the student is eligible to receive gifted services under the GATE criteria defined by DUSD Governing Board Policy.

**Students should register and attend classes in their home school until they have been accepted for gifted services.**

## 3. When Does Gifted Testing Take Place?

Testing is offered three times a year: Fall, Spring and Kindergarten Testing.

*\*Students may only be tested **one** time per calendar year.*

### Testing Dates for 2011-2012

#### Fall

**Referral Deadline: August 26, 2011**

**Testing: September 6-23, 2011**

#### Spring

**Referral Deadline: January 13, 2012**

**Testing: January 23 - February 17 2012**

#### Kindergarten

**Referral Deadline: March 2, 2012**

**Testing: March 19 – April 6, 2012**

District Office will provide testing results to parents generally within two weeks following the closing of the testing window.

**Parents must sign for permission for their student to receive gifted services.**