Office of Gifted and Talented Education

“Together We Make a Difference”

Twice Exceptional (2E)
Twice Exceptional refers to students with high ability while simultaneously having a learning disability. The Gifted and Talented staff are advocates for the 2E learners. We recognize their needs and strive to balance their exceptionalities (ADHD/Aspergers/Autism and being gifted). We collaborate with Special Education staff, classroom teachers, and other support personnel.

Intellectually Gifted Students
We identify intellectually gifted students (IQ 130 and above) through collaboration with our Division of Psychological Services. Assessment results are used to ensure appropriate curriculum and individualized academic accommodations for these students.

Resources
There is a plethora of resources available to learn more about Gifted and Talented i.e., organizations, journals, and websites. Below are just a few. To view more visit www.ops.org/gifted

- Nebraska Association for Gifted is a non-profit, statewide, nationally affiliated organization of parents and educators that are interested in the education of gifted youth.
- National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) is a non-profit organization of parents, teachers, educators, community leaders, and other professionals. NAGC Members unite to address the unique needs of all children and youth with demonstrated gifts and talents as well as those who may be able to develop their talent potential with appropriate educational experiences.
- TAG: The Association for the Gifted is a national advocacy group for gifted education. It is part of the Council for Exceptional Children, a leading special education professional organization.

High Ability Student Support
Each high school provides excellent staff members ready to identify and support our gifted and talented students. From classroom teachers to specialty staff (i.e. music, art, physical education, JROTC, foreign language, business, etc.), along with administration and support staff, these individuals assist students as they make choices that shape their future. Parents/Guardians have a major role as they communicate their child's strengths to the building staff. “Together We Make a Difference!”
Office of Gifted and Talented Education Mission

The staff of the Office of Gifted and Talented Education strives to identify gifted and exceptionally talented students within the Omaha Public Schools, nurture their social/emotional development and enhance their curriculum experience so that these unique individuals may reach their fullest potential.

Office of Gifted and Talented Education Beliefs

We believe our students...

- are found in the areas of intellectual ability, academics, creativity, performing/visual arts, and leadership.
- are found in all cultures.
- include students with learning disabilities (twice-exceptional [2E]).

Gifted and Talented students have the right to...

... learn something new every day
... not be gifted in everything
... feel proud of their accomplishments
... be passionate about their talents
... be educated about their abilities and talents
... interact with like ability peers
... be stimulated with rigorous and challenging instruction

“Together We Make a Difference”

Areas of Giftedness

- **Intellectual (IQ)** – students who score 130 or above on an intellectual assessment are considered intellectually gifted. There is a plethora of opportunities at each high school for individuals to challenge their abilities and strengths. Joining national organizations such as MENSA also provides a forum for intellectual exchange among its members.
- **Academic Achievement** – students who achieve in the classroom and/or score high on district assessments will find many challenging opportunities at each high school for example: Academic Decathlon, Academy of Finance, Quiz Bowl, History Day, Science Olympiad, African American History Challenge, Project Peace, National Honor Society, etc.
- **Creativity** – students who are creative thinkers, problem solvers, and/or artistically inclined will succeed with opportunities such as: chess, anime art, computer club or photography, bridge, astronomy, Fine Lines literary journal, newspaper and yearbook staff, etc.
- **Leadership** – student leaders have high expectations for themselves and others. You will find student leaders in Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), Mock Trials, student ambassadors, Future Educators, and Principal’s Advisory to name a few.
- **Visual and Performing Arts** – students that enjoy expressing themselves through the arts may audition for theatre and musical productions, concert/show/hand bell choirs, cheerleading, marching/jazz bands, drill/dance team and flag corps.

Each of our seven high schools offers a variety of opportunities in the above areas. Check school websites under Gifted and Talented for a complete listing.

Transition to High School

Moving from middle level to senior high is an exciting, yet challenging time. Rigorous curriculum challenges students to reach above and beyond. Students will be able to capitalize on their strengths and interests in one or more of the areas of giftedness.

The choices made at the senior high level will shape a student’s future. We encourage students to develop into independent learners and make decisions based upon readiness and interest.

Advancement Opportunities

Our high schools offer rigorous, world-class experiences through the coursework offered at each of the seven high schools. Students self-select courses based on career pathways, strengths and interests.

**Honors Courses** – students may choose to transition from middle school directly into honors level courses to prepare for upper level coursework such as Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB). These honors courses lay the foundation of rigor, organization and reading outside of class, writing and forming study groups.

**Advanced Placement (AP)** – each of the seven OPS high schools offers a variety of AP classes approved by the College Board. Trained teachers using college methodology, textbooks, expectations, assignments and tests teach these college-level classes. It is expected that students will take the College Board AP exam or a teacher-prepared exam at the end of each course. For more info on AP courses offered, visit each high school’s website.

**Dual Enrollment** – students have the opportunity to receive dual credit from local universities and community colleges as they attend classes at their high school. Scholarships are available. More information is located at www.ops.org/gifted or at individual schools’ websites.

**International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme (IB DP)** – designed as an academically challenging and balanced program of study with final examinations that prepares students, grades 11 & 12, for success at university and life beyond. The curriculum and pedagogy of the Diploma Programme focuses on international perspectives of learning and teaching while ensuring students fully explore their home culture and language. Students and teachers are encouraged to explore the connections between curriculum areas. Teachers participate in professional development opportunities to constantly update their knowledge. The core components of the DP encourage students to be active, participative, in creative and service-oriented activities, while at the same time emphasizing the importance of reflection on a personal and academic level.

For more information about the Office of Gifted and Talented Education, visit www.ops.org/gifted.