Office of Gifted and Talented Education

“Together We Make a Difference”

Habits of Mind™ – We believe the importance of teaching timeless, universal principles to students. Persistence, Managing our Impulsivity, and Thinking About our Thinking make up a few of the 16 Habits taught regularly by our Gifted and Talented Facilitators. Our goal is to embed these habits into students’ daily lives. Habits of Mind™ authors: Art Costa and Bena Kallick

Twice Exceptional (2E) – Our Gifted and Talented Facilitators are advocates for 2E learners. We recognize their needs and strive to balance their exceptionalities, collaborating with Special Education staff, classroom teachers, and other support personnel.

Acceleration – We recognize that some students far exceed the academic achievement level of their age peers, and the pace of classroom instruction does not match the students’ ability levels. We strive to provide students opportunities in a learning environment that challenge them appropriately. Single subject accelerations, grade accelerations, and developing and monitoring a Differentiated Educational Plans (DEP) are options we support and oversee.

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

QUEST — Above and Beyond! – We offer hundreds of elementary students an opportunity to Question, Understand, Explore, and Search for Talents through our summer enrichment program. Currently QUEST serves our highly gifted students. We believe students of like intellectual ability should have an opportunity to spend time together, learn from one another, and go “above and beyond.” QUEST does just that!

Gifted and Talented Facilitators

Gifted and Talented Facilitators serve all elementary schools within the Omaha Public Schools. All facilitators have advanced training, including master’s degrees and/or K-12 endorsements in Gifted Education.

Magnet Schools

Students with special interests and/or strengths are encouraged to learn more about the OPS Elementary Magnet Program at www.ops.org/magnet.

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

Areas of Giftedness

In conjunction with the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) and the Nebraska State Education Rules and Policies, OPS recognizes five areas of giftedness:
• Intellectual (IQ)
• Academic Achievement
• Creativity
• Leadership
• Visual/Performing Arts

Identification

• The NDE (Nebraska Department of Education) requires school districts to identify high ability learners. In compliance with Rule 3 - a matrix of criteria is used to identify for Gifted and Talented services. This matrix may include standardized test data, ability assessments, classroom performance and/or family and teacher recommendations.

Curriculum Framework

The Gifted and Talented Curriculum Framework is designed to promote:
• Creative/Critical Thinking
• Problem Solving
• Research Skills
• Social/Emotional Development
• Habits of Mind™
  www.habits-of-mind.net

Curriculum for high ability students is differentiated by faster pace and greater complexity.

Direct Services

Gifted and Talented Facilitators provide specialized instruction specific to students’ ability levels. Core subject enrichment augments classroom curriculum. In addition, small groups may focus on preparation for academic competitions and Gifted and Talented special events.

Indirect Services

Gifted and Talented Facilitators collaborate with classroom teachers to provide assistance for differentiation of instruction within the classroom.

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