Office of Gifted and Talented Education

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
Some students far exceed the academic achievement level of their age peers, and the pace of instruction does not match the students’ ability levels. We work to provide students a learning environment that challenges each appropriately. The following are options we support and oversee:

- Differentiated Educational Plan (DEP)
- Subject acceleration
- Grade-level acceleration
- High School placement
- Distance Learning

Intellectually Gifted Students
We 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 are provided for these students.

“Together We Make a Difference”

Gifted and Talented Facilitators
Each of our middle schools has a certified teacher assigned the role of gifted and talented facilitator. All facilitators have advanced training in gifted education including master’s degrees and/or endorsement in Gifted Education.

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

Each school provides course work, events, clubs and opportunities in each area.

Omaha Public Schools
Department of Curriculum & Learning
Office of Gifted and Talented Education
402-557-2660
Fax: 402-557-2674
Mary Tessin, Supervisor
402-557-2453

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.

“Together We Make a Difference”

Transition to Middle School

With independence comes choice both within the classroom and beyond. Behind classroom doors, teachers differentiate content, process, and product based on a student’s academic readiness as well as their learning style or interest. Placement in advanced classes (per course) is determined by standardized assessments, classroom performance and other established criteria. Students are expected to develop self-discipline by meeting deadlines, asking questions, and acquiring organizational and study skills as they strive to become both independent and successful at the middle level and beyond.

Beyond the classroom, students have opportunities to be challenged through:
• Various special events (sponsored by the Office of Gifted and Talented) as well as those unique to each middle school
• Contests/Competitions – within our district and beyond
• Clubs unique to each middle school

Learn more about school offerings, visit each schools website

Curriculum

Differentiation is the foundation for student success. Teachers adapt the curriculum and instruction to address the needs of all learners. By using pre-assessments, the classroom teachers identify their students’ ability and readiness levels. Modifications consist of adjusting the pace of instruction and adding rigor and choice. RIGOR is added to curriculum by increasing:
• BREADTH (looking at the discipline from a broader viewpoint)
• DEPTH (allowing students to dig deeper into a current area of study)
• COMPLEXITY (broadening students understanding of an area of study by making relationships and associations between and across disciplines).

Academic RIGOR engages students in multiple, complex, thought provoking tests that challenge their thinking.

Gifted and Talented Events

While each school will offer unique opportunities based on the interests and talents of their students, the following events are sponsored by The Office of Gifted and Talented:
• Book Blasters Reading Competition
• Leadership Teams
• The Scholars
• Think Tank (formerly Future Probe)
• Poetry Slams
• TIP (Talented Identification Program)
• Academic Quiz Bowl
• Pentathlon (USAD)

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