The Nebraska Department of Education, Rule 3, requires schools to develop a system to identify learners with high ability.

Starting with the 2016-2017 school year, high ability learners will be identified for GATE services by meeting indicators for at least 3 of four criteria:

* **COGNITIVE** – Top 5% at the school or national level on an intelligence/cognitive test

* **ACHIEVEMENT** – Top 5% at the school or national level on a standardized grade-level achievement test

* **MOTIVATION/PERFORMANCE** – “A” or Advanced (ADV) in 60% or more courses on the most recent semester grade report (equivalent to a 3.5 un-weighted GPA) OR qualifying staff referral/recommendation and/or participation

* **CREATIVITY/LEADERSHIP** – Qualifying staff referral/recommendation and/or participation

While some students may not meet the criteria for identification, the Omaha Public Schools believes students throughout the district have talent and potential. A student may still be involved in many of the GATE and school sponsored events and competitions. This involvement may serve as an indicator for the Motivation/Performance or Creativity/Leadership criteria towards permanent identification.

Contact Information

Ms. Rachel Beck  
Gifted and Talented Facilitator  
(531) 299-2440  
ext. 1008791730  
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Think Tank

Academic Pentathlon

Programming supported by the

Gifted and Talented Education in the Omaha Public Schools strives to identify potentially gifted and exceptionally talented students across the district, nurture their social/emotional development and enhance their curriculum experiences so that these unique individuals may reach their fullest potential.

Dr. Jeaneen Talbott, Principal  
McMillan Magnet Center  
3802 Redick Avenue  
Omaha, NE 68112
Honors Courses

Classroom teachers meet the needs of high ability learners on a daily basis through classroom differentiation. Additionally, all OPS middle schools offer honors courses in English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science. These courses enhance and enrich learning experiences for students by differentiating through **Pace** (accelerating the instructional practices), **Depth** (deepening the discipline knowledge and practice) and **Complexity** (Using sophisticated levels of advanced thinking).

All OPS middle schools offer:
* Honors Language Arts 7
* Honors Language Arts 8
* Honors Physical Science (Grade 8)
* Honors Pre-Algebra 1-2
* Honors Algebra 1-2
* Honors Geometry 1-2

Project Based Learning (PBL)

In PBL, students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to a complex question, problem, or challenge. Essential elements of PBL include:

**21st century competencies** - Students build competencies valuable for today’s world, such as problem solving, critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity/innovation.

**In-Depth Inquiry** - Students are engaged in an extended, rigorous process of asking questions, using resources, and developing answers.

**Driving Question** - Project work is focused by an open-ended question that students understand and find intriguing, and frames their exploration.

**Critique and Revision** - The project includes processes for students to give and receive feedback on the quality of their work, leading them to make revisions or conduct further inquiry.

**Public Audience** - Students present their work to other people, beyond their classmates and teacher.

Mathematics
- Competition Math
- Math Club
- Sixth Grade Math Contest
- After School Computerized Math Lab

**Engineering and Technology**
- Project Lead the Way
- Architecture and Engineering
- SAME/SIMP (Society of American Military Engineers/Student Initiative Mentoring)
- Computer Science
- Industrial Technology Competition
- VEX Robotics Competitions
- Girls in Coding

Science
- Science Club
- Science Olympiad
- Science Bowl
- Science Fair

Music
- Monarch Pride (Honors Chorus)
- Chamber Music
- Blair Honor Band
- All-City Music Festival
- All-State Band
- Omaha Area Youth Orchestra
- String Olympics
- Drumline

Social Studies
- National Geography Bee
- African American History Challenge

Language Arts
- Bookblasters
- Poetry Slam

Across the Curriculum
- Quiz Bowl
- Academic Pentathlon
- Student Ambassadors
- National Junior Honor Society
- The Scholars
- Think Tank
- Student Newspaper and Yearbook
- Spelling Bee
- Student Council
- Duke Talent Identification Program

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**How do I get involved?**

Students will be notified of upcoming opportunities through daily