
Gifted



GIFTED ADVOCATE

Gifted Services & Enrichment
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Welcome to the 2016-17 School Year

Dear Worthington Families and Staff,

Welcome back to another school year! The district enters into the new year with a strong focus on its new mission statement: To empower a community of learners who will change the world. To accomplish this, one of the key areas of focus is to engage each student with diverse opportunities to maximize every student's potential. This applies to every student, including our gifted learners. We will continue this work with gifted intervention specialists, general classroom teachers, administrators and parents to support and provide those diverse opportunities to our gifted learners, both in and out of the classroom.

One of the great aspects of my job is the opportunity to interact with so many parents and educators advocating for children to identify the best option to support and strengthen their potential. Productive conversations can be as simple as how a student is identified as gifted in Worthington to the more complex of how a student identified as gifted in multiple areas is struggling to make good grades. No matter how simple or complex, they are all conversations worthy of inspiring and motivating the gifted learner.

We are all a team working together to meet the many unique needs of the community of learners in Worthington, and it is our goal within the Gifted Services department to help our gifted learners be empowered and achieve their maximum potential.

*Have a wonderful school year,
Suzanne Palmer
Coordinator, Gifted Services & Enrichment*



**GIFTED SERVICES IS NOW ON TWITTER – FOLLOW US AT
@WCSGIFTED**

Gifted Frequently Asked Questions

What areas are students identified as gifted?

Students can be identified as gifted in the area(s) of:

- **Superior Cognitive Ability** (Scoring at least two standard deviations above the mean (100) +/- the standard error of measure on a state-approved, nationally-normed abilities test - i.e. CogAT, Inview, OLSAT, NNAT, etc)
- **Specific Academic Achievement** - Math, Reading, Science, Social Studies (Scoring at or above the 95th percentile on a state-approved, nationally-normed achievement test – i.e. MAP, Iowa, Stanford)
- **Visual and Performing Arts** – Visual Arts, Music, Drama, Theatre, Dance (Demonstrated superior ability through a display of work, an audition, or other performance or exhibition, in a visual or performing arts area and exhibited sufficient performance on a state-approved checklist of behaviors related to a specific arts area)
- **Creative Thinking Ability** (Scoring at least one standard deviation above the mean on a state-approved test of creative ability – i.e. CogAT, OLSAT, NNAT and exhibited sufficient performance on a state- approved checklist by a trained individual of creative behaviors)



When will students be tested for Gifted Identification?

Worthington offers whole group screenings for superior cognitive ability in 2nd and 4th grade. In addition to the cognitive testing, 4th graders will also be tested in the achievement areas of science and social studies. MAP testing which is administered on an on-going basis, grades K-9, is used for gifted identification in the achievement areas of math and reading. A referral for testing can be made no more than two times per year.

How will I know my child has been identified as gifted?

Once a student has met the criteria established by the state for gifted identification in any area, you will be notified with a Letter of Gifted Identification. This letter will notify you of the area(s) of gifted identification and the qualifying score and test. Letters should be kept for your records.

I have received a Letter of Gifted Identification for my child(ren). What services are available?

While there is a state mandate for gifted identification, there is no mandate for gifted services. Districts receive a limited amount of funding for services, and so therefore, districts determine services that are in compliance with Ohio Gifted Operating Standards (OAC 3301-51-15) to best meet the needs of its population.

Gifted services available in Worthington include the EPP Math Program (grades 3-6) and Enriched English Language Arts (grades 7 & 8). Students in grades 3-6 who are identified as gifted in the areas of superior cognitive ability AND math qualify for placement into the EPP Math Program. This service is provided by a licensed gifted intervention specialist who serves as the math teacher of record for students in the program. The EPP Math program is designed to take the math content standards into more depth, breadth, complexity, and at an accelerated pace. In addition, the program incorporates other enrichment and extension activities designed specifically to meet not only the academic needs, but the unique social and emotional needs of the gifted learner as well.

At the middle school level, services are provided to 7th and 8th graders who have been identified as gifted in the areas of both superior cognitive ability AND reading. With this service, a licensed gifted intervention specialist with a language arts background, serves as the students teacher of record for English Language Arts. Very similarly to the elementary math program, the Enriched English Language Arts is designed to take the curriculum standards into much more depth, breadth, and complexity with opportunities for the gifted intervention specialist to address the social and emotional needs of the gifted learner.

At the high school, all academic opportunities are self-selected and do not require a gifted identification for the various programs and coursework. Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and STEM are all good options for students to provide a rigorous and challenging education.

My child has been identified as gifted but does not meet the criteria for placement into formal gifted services (i.e. EPP Math Program or Enriched ELA). How can I be sure my child is being challenged?

At the elementary level, students identified as gifted in reading may be placed into gifted cluster groups to provide additional opportunities for challenge and to be grouped with peers of similar ability. Resources also are available to be matched to a student's readiness.

Teachers throughout the district use formative assessments to guide instruction for all learners, including gifted identified students. Teachers are able to differentiate instruction as needed to make sure that students are receiving the most appropriate level of instruction and challenge. As a parent, you are encouraged to open that line of communication with your child's teacher to get a better understanding of how your child's needs are being met.

My child consistently scores high on nationally-normed assessments (i.e. MAP, CogAT) and has a teacher who has provided extensive enrichment and extensions to the grade level curriculum, but my child still complains that she is bored.

It is important to understand that being "bored" can have a number of meanings. It does not always have to mean that the curriculum is not challenging enough. In some instances, it can actually mean that something may be a little too challenging for the student, so the student is using avoidance to engage in the task. Through dialogue with your child's teacher, it is important to get some insight on what exactly being "bored" means. Is it too easy? Too hard? Not an area of interest? Something else?

Sometimes, however, despite numerous enrichment and extension opportunities provided, it is possible that your child needs the additional challenge of a subject or whole grade acceleration. This intervention is for a small percentage of the population, and a student need not be identified as gifted in order to be referred for acceleration.

A subject acceleration would require that a student go to the next grade level for instruction in one or more content areas. With a subject acceleration a student then is assessed at that grade level for any state testing. A whole grade acceleration will address the needs of a student who demonstrates readiness academically, socially, and emotionally in all areas to support a move to the next grade level.

A number of factors, including quantitative and qualitative, are used by an acceleration team to make an informed decision on best placement for a student. This becomes a permanent placement after the nine week transition period. A student who just qualifies is probably not the ideal candidate for

acceleration. One must examine the potential for long-term achievement. Accelerated students should be expected to achieve, relative to their new grade peers, at a high level that is generally comparable to their performance in their previous grade. These students are typically in the top 10% in a class and one would expect them to remain in the top 10% throughout their academic career. Thus, test scores should be strong in order for acceleration to be successful.

For more information on acceleration, visit <http://www.accelerationinstitute.org/Resources/QA/>. For families considering whether or not acceleration is the right intervention for their child, contact the child's teacher to get an idea of the student's progress within the classroom and what extension and enrichment opportunities have been implemented in the classroom to stretch and engage the learner. You may also contact the gifted services department with any questions about acceleration.

Mark Your Calendars for these 2016-17 Test Dates

Below are the test dates sponsored by our department. If for some reason our district SAT and ACT test dates conflict with your student's schedule, he/she is welcome to take these tests at any of our neighboring districts on alternate dates. For more information on how to register for either of these tests, visit www.act.org or www.collegeboard.org.



ACT High School Test – October 22, 2016 at Thomas Worthington High School
SAT Middle School Test – December 3, 2016 at Worthingway Middle School
ACT High School Test – February 4, 2017 at Thomas Worthington High School
Advanced Placement High School Testing – May 2 – May 13, 2016 at the WEC
SAT High School Test (Newly redesigned) – June 3, 2017 at Worthington Kilbourne High School

Northwestern University Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS)

NUMATS, program offered through the Center for Talent Development, is an opportunity for gifted and high ability students, grades 3 to 9, to take above level tests such as the ACT, PSAT, and/or SAT. By participating in above grade level testing, educators and parents are able to get better insight on what students are ready to learn by removing the “ceiling effect” of grade level assessments. For more information about the above grade level testing and programs offered by the Center for Talent Development, visit: www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats.



Invention Convention



Worthington has been a long-time participant of Invention Convention and is looking forward to participating again this year. For more information, please visit the Invention Convention website at www.inventionconvention.org. This enrichment program is open to all students in grades K-8 and encourages students to use their creative thinking to invent new products or improve existing products to help simplify our daily lives. Invention Convention is one of the programs available to **all students, grades K-8** wishing to participate in 4th Annual Worthington Science Day on Saturday, February 25th. Winners of Invention Convention at the Worthington Science Day will go on to compete in the regional competition where they will be competing for scholarships and other exciting prizes.

Invention Convention is a 501©3 non-profit so they run entirely on donations from individual and business partners. Here is how you can help.....Invention Convention has launched an **ONLINE FUNDRAISING CONTRIBUTION CENTER** and is making an appeal to parents, colleagues, business leaders, and PTOs for contributions.

Invention Convention has also partnered with **Kroger Cares**, so every person who identifies Invention Convention as their 'preferred non-profit' will have a donation made on their behalf every time they use their Kroger rewards card when they shop. (instructions are online at www.inventionconvention.org). Invention Convention's mailing address is: Invention Convention and Just Think Inc., c/o The Columbus Dispatch, 1st Floor, 5300 Crosswind Drive, Columbus, OH 43228.

We hope to see this program continue in future years.

2016-2017 Destination Imagination Program

The Destination Imagination process is ready to begin. For those new to Destination Imagination (DI), this program encourages teams of learners to have fun, take risks, focus, and frame challenges while incorporating STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), the arts, and service learning. Participants learn patience, flexibility, persistence, ethics, respect for others and their ideas, and the collaborative problem solving process. Teams then present their solutions at the Region 4 tournament in the spring.

To learn more about the Destination Imagination program, please attend the Informational Night for parents and students on **Thursday, October 6th**, at **6:30 PM, Worthington Education Center, 200 E. Wilson Bridge Road.**



We are currently looking to identify **team managers** and **team appraisers**. A **team manager** recruits students, supervises team meetings throughout the year and attends the regional tournament as well as state and global tournaments if their student team qualifies. A small stipend is provided to managers. New team managers must attend a mandatory training session

If you are not able to commit the time to be a team manager, we invite you to be a **team appraiser** for one of our DI teams, which only requires you to attend a training session and the tournament. It's a great way to become familiar with the program before possibly serving as a team manager in the future.

To be cost effective we will only send registration information to parents who are willing to manage a team. A team manager kit will be provided to any team that returns official Region IV registration materials. The Gifted Services Department has already paid the national registration fees for our district to participate and to access the 2016-17 challenges. Registration fees for the regional competition will also be paid by the district. **Please contact the gifted services office at 450-6056 for registration information.**

SWEPP

SWEPP - Supporting Worthington's Enrichment Programs and Parents

SWEPP would like to extend an invitation to every parent of academically talented students to join its organization. SWEPP is a parent/community organization that advocates for academically talented students and quality education while providing a support network for their parents in the Worthington School District. Activities include ongoing support of the EPP program at the elementary level, enriched coursework at the middle school level, and honors and advanced placement course work at the High School level. SWEPP strives to provide enrichment activities for all students who would benefit, and we encourage parent participation from anyone who wants to support enrichment for their high achieving student. For more information about SWEPP, please visit www.supportingworthingtonsepp.com or www.facebook.com/supportersofworthingtonEPP.

Join SWEPP for its first event of the year....

“Giftedness is Not Enough – What Else Matters?”
Thomas Worthington High School, Media Center
6205 W. Granville Road
Tuesday, October 4, 2016
6:30 PM

Intelligence and talent can only take a child so far. What is the common element that makes some people successful while others struggle? Join other parents of gifted and high ability children in a discussion, led by Dr. Misty Swanger, to understand the importance of GRIT, Empathy, Motivation and Optimism and how they relate to academic success. These important skills can be taught, can be learned and the teaching starts at home!

No pre-registration required. For questions about this event, please contact Suzanne Palmer, Gifted Services Coordinator, spalmer@wscloud.org or 614-450-6055, or Sarah Novak, SWEPP President, snovak13@hotmail.com.

2017 Martin W. Essex School for the Gifted Registration

Now Open

The 2017 Martin W. Essex School for the Gifted and Talented™ at Otterbein University offers **current gifted sophomores and juniors** opportunities for enrichment and career exploration through a unique program comprised of classes, seminars and workshops in the arts, sciences and humanities. Taking place in multiple venues throughout Otterbein’s campus, this week long residential program encourages social interaction and peer discussion so that students can be challenged intellectually and artistically while developing a better understanding of the role of their abilities and talents in their lives and in society. For more information visit www.otterbein.edu/essex or [click here](#) to view video highlights from the 2014 camp.



DATES for this summer opportunity: June 18-24, 2017

LOCATION: Otterbein University Campus

COST: \$550 - Financial assistance may be available for those who qualify. See application for more information or contact Suzanne Palmer, Gifted Services Coordinator, 614-450-6055 or spalmer@wscloud.org.

TO REQUEST AN APPLICATION, contact Suzanne Palmer, Gifted Services Coordinator, 614-450-6055, spalmer@wscloud.org or visit: <http://www.worthington.k12.oh.us/domain/63>.

Visual and Performing Arts Gifted Identification



Under Ohio Revised Code 3324 we are mandated to identify students as gifted in the area of the visual and performing arts. We are currently accepting referrals for students in this area which includes the visual arts, music, dance, and theatre. While there is a mandate for gifted identification in the area of the arts, there is no mandate for gifted services in this area.

Students participating in this process will be evaluated using one to three different instruments. The first phase of the evaluation, which is the completion of a gifted trait checklist by an educator in the arts, will be completed in November. A teacher familiar with

your child and the area in which he/she is being assessed will complete the checklist based on observations from the beginning of the school year.

Students meeting the state screening score, but not the state qualifying score, will be assessed with a second checklist. All families will be notified of the outcome of this checklist assessment by the beginning of December. Students who earn a qualifying score on the checklist assessment will be invited to participate in the second phase of assessment taking place late January. That is a display of talent using a portfolio of visual art or an original music, dance, or drama performance coupled with a display of requested technical skills as appropriate to the area being assessed. The full timeline for the assessment process and referral form can be found on the Gifted Services Website.



You are invited to attend the 2016 OAGC State Fall Conference October 16th through October 18th

The Ohio Association for Gifted Children will be sponsoring its annual Fall Conference on **October 16th through October 18th, 2016**, at the Hilton Easton located at 3900 Chagrin Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43219. Parents, general classroom teachers K-12, building administrators, curriculum specialists, gifted intervention specialists and gifted coordinators are encouraged to attend this three day event.

OAGC Parent Day is scheduled for **Sunday, October 16th, at 2:30 p.m.** The admission charge for parents to attend this special event is \$5.00. Registration opens at 2:00 PM with the opening session beginning at 3:00 p.m. The keynote speaker, Dr. Jonathan Plucker, will address “Success in College and Life: A Professor’s Perspective.”

Dr. Jonathan Plucker is the Julian C. Stanley Endowed Professor of Talent Development at Johns Hopkins University, where he works in the School of Education and Center for Talented Youth. His research examines education policy and talent development, with over 200 publications to his credit. His books include *Critical Issues and Practices in Gifted Education*, *Intelligence 101*, and *Essentials of Creativity Assessment*. Prof. Plucker has worked on projects involving educators, schools, and students in all 50 states and several countries and he is a recipient of the Distinguished Scholar Award from NAGC.

Additional break-out sessions for parents will follow Dr. Plucker’s keynote. [Click here](#) for more information on the special event.



Worthington’s IB Diploma Programme: A great opportunity for gifted high school students

Worthington families have a unique learning opportunity for their high school students. The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme, a two-year curriculum developed for juniors and seniors, is available at Worthington Kilbourne High School for **any** student in the Worthington School District.

The IB curriculum was created by an international organization in Geneva, Switzerland, and over the past 40 years has come to be considered the best preparation for college-level study. The curriculum consists of two-year courses in six different subject areas, including: literature, foreign language, social studies, science, mathematics, and the arts. An additional seventh class period is used for the IB core classes.

High schools with IB programs must complete a rigorous application process that includes additional training for all IB teachers. Schools that offer the IB program are referred to as “World Schools”—which is a unique distinction. Currently, there are about 900 high schools in the US offering the IB Diploma Programme. In the state of Ohio, only 20 out of 1,453 high schools (1.5%) offer the IB Diploma Programme. Worthington families are very fortunate to have a school system that makes this program available to its high school students!

Why is the IB Diploma Programme such a good match for gifted high school students?

- 1) The program is taught using “inquiry-based learning” which involves students posing their own questions, researching evidence to answer these questions, and then developing explanations based on this evidence. Inquiry-based learning is excellent preparation for college study—something often said about IB program
- 2) Worthington’s IB Diploma Programme is essentially operated as a school within a school. The classes are smaller and the students, who share seven out of eight class periods together each day, form an academically committed peer group who are enthusiastic learners. IB teachers typically coordinate with one another to balance students’ workload. The approach is collaborative—for students and teachers!
- 3) It’s also possible to take any IB course a-la-carte. This could be a great option for college-bound students looking for an alternative to Advanced Placement (AP) courses.
- 4) The IB Diploma Programme core is another special feature, consisting of:
 - Theory of Knowledge: the “flagship” element of the IB program, a course that explores the nature of knowledge, meaning, and thinking.
 - Extended Essay (EE): an inquiry-based research project on a topic of the students choosing, culminating in the writing of a 4,000-word essay.
 - Creativity, Action, Service (CAS): CAS fosters personal growth through out-of-class activities chosen by each student that integrate these three areas: creative (arts-oriented), athletic/physical (sports or fitness-oriented) and community-service (volunteer work).

IB courses end-of-program written examinations are evaluated and graded by external IB examiners, rather than their teachers. Graduating seniors who are successful IB Diploma recipients earn two diplomas, one from WKHS and one from the International Baccalaureate organization.

Over 1600 US colleges and universities recognize the IB Diploma with official policies for admitting IB students to their institutions, including offering college credit for IB courses taken.

For more information contact IB Program Coordinator Sean Cooke, scooke@wscloud.org

Resources for Parents

Worthington Gifted Services Department: <http://www.worthington.k12.oh.us/domain/63>

Ohio Association for Gifted Children: www.oagc.com

National Association for Gifted Children: www.nagc.org

Hoagies Gifted: www.hoagiesgifted.org

Acceleration Institute: www.accelerationinstitute.org

