
Gifted



GIFTED ADVOCATE

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Welcome to the 2018-19 School Year

Dear Worthington Families and Staff,

Welcome back to another school year! I am especially excited for this year to begin as we have made some changes to gifted services offered to Worthington students. Last year as many of you may be aware we engaged in a year-long review of our current gifted services program. I had the great pleasure of working with a number of dedicated teachers, administrators, parents, and students throughout the year as we looked at our current services model, the current district population, and other relevant data. Our goal was to ensure that we were providing quality services to meet the many unique needs of as many gifted learners as possible while maximizing the resources allotted. Through this process, we made some changes in the gifted services that are offered to the students of Worthington and look forward to seeing those changes in action. We greatly appreciated and valued the feedback provided by our stakeholders through this process. Details about the new model are shared within this publication.

Every year after the distribution of this publication, I will often get questions from parents such as, "Why are you sending this to me? My child is not in EPP Math?" This publication is distributed to families of ALL students identified as gifted in one or more areas, whether served or not in a formal gifted service, EPP Math or MS Enriched Language Arts. You and your child are a part of the gifted community here in Worthington and there are many topics that may be of interest to your child or to you as the parent of a gifted learner. So please review the information of this publication as it is designed to be a valuable resource for parents and for students of all grade levels. With that in mind, in an effort to make this publication easier to navigate, we have identified the targeted populations to make it easier for you as a parent to determine what is applicable to you and your child. The Gifted Advocate is published a few times throughout the year, so please let me know if there are topics of interest you would like to see included in this publication.

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



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

For Elem, MS, HS

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 (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. MAP testing, which is administered on an on-going basis in grades K-8, 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 (whole group screenings count as one of those referrals each 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 does that mean?

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 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. See Worthington's Gifted Services Plan below which was effective August 2018.

At the elementary level, students in grades 3-6 who are identified as gifted in the areas of superior cognitive ability AND math qualify for placement into a self-contained, single-subject course (most commonly known as EPP Math). 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 in some instances, 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.

Beginning August 2018, students in grades 3-6 identified as gifted in the areas of superior cognitive ability and reading are placed into a language arts cluster group with five to eight like ability peers. The teacher of a gifted language arts cluster is receiving on-going high quality professional development on meeting not only the academic needs of the gifted learner but also the social and emotional needs as well. This service is also available at the middle school level for 7th and 8th graders who have been identified as gifted in the specific academic area of reading but do not have the gifted identification in the area of superior cognitive ability.

For 7th and 8th graders who have been identified as gifted in the areas of both superior cognitive ability AND reading, they are served in a self-contained, single-subject course (most commonly known as Enriched English Language Arts). 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. Both AP and IB teachers are receiving on-going high quality professional development on meeting not only the academic needs of the gifted learner but also the social and emotional needs as well. Students enrolled in AP and/or IB courses and whom have been identified as gifted in the area of gifted identification corresponding to the course will be considered as served in his/her area of gifted identification. For example, a student who is identified as gifted in reading and taking AP English Language & Composition is considered served as defined by Ohio's Gifted Operating Standards.

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?

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.

How do I know if my child is being served in a gifted service?

Any student who meets the criteria for placement into any of the services described above will receive a Written Education Plan (WEP). The WEP provides you as a parent with information such as a description of the service to be provided, goals for the student in the service setting, methods and schedule for reporting progress, staff members responsible for ensuring delivery of specified services, and date for which WEP will be reviewed for possible revision.

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. This can often be the case when a child is used to having things come easy to him/her and is faced with a challenge that requires effort and a healthy struggle. It can also mean that your child has no interest in the topic of study. We as adults can sometimes relate to this. These are the tasks that we tend to put off or avoid. 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 when grade level curriculum has been mastered. This intervention is for a very 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.

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 through various assessment instruments. The first phase of the evaluation, which is the completion of a gifted trait checklist by an educator in the arts. 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. Students who earn a qualifying score on the second checklist assessment will be invited to participate in the next phase of assessment. 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.



For Elem, MS, HS

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.inventionleague.org. This enrichment program is open to all students in grades K-12 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 available to **all students, grades K-12** and is a part of the 6th Annual Worthington Science Day on Saturday, February 2nd. Winners of Invention Convention at the [Worthington Science Day](#) will go on to compete at the state competition where they will be competing for scholarships and other exciting prizes, and the chance to advance to the National Invention Convention & Entrepreneurship Expo. Your child could join past Worthington Invention Convention winners, Isabella Gonzalez, Claire Rhodes, and Grace Rhodes, all of whom have experienced great success the last couple of years with Invention Convention.

Isabella, grade 4, travelled with her invention, The Super Purse, to Dearborn, MI to compete in the National Invention Convention at the Henry Form Museum this past summer. Later in the summer, she took her newest invention, Ready, Set, Pet! to compete at the Ohio Invention Convention which was held at the Ohio State Fair. Isabella's success at this year's state competition has earned her a trip back to the National Invention Convention for her third straight year.

Also, joining Isabella at the National Invention Convention & Entrepreneurship Expo this past summer was Claire, grade 5, with her invention The Toiletizer #2. This was Claire's third year in a row to participate in the National Invention Convention for her creative ideas. Claire has had many opportunities open to her as a result

of her participation in Invention Convention over the last few years. She has been featured on several news and radio stations, as well as served as an ambassador of the program and traveling with Invention Convention staff throughout the state to promote the program. She will soon be meeting with a corporation about her invention.

New inventor, Grace, grade 1, earned first place at this summer's Ohio Invention Convention competition. She will be making her first trip to the National Invention Convention this summer with her invention the Playdoh Saver. We are excited to follow Grace to see what other creative ideas she has in mind.

2018-2019 Destination Imagination Program

The Destination Imagination (DI) 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 present their solutions at the Region 4 tournament in the spring. Teams have a chance to advance from the Region 4 tournament to the state tournament and then possibly to Globals to be held in Kansas City, Missouri this year. Worthington has been well represented at all levels of DI, including Globals for the past four years.



Please visit the Worthington Gifted Services [website](#) to learn more about Destination Imagination or contact, Suzanne Palmer, Gifted Services Coordinator.

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.

For MS & HS

Mark Your Calendars for these 2018-19 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 27, 2018 at Thomas Worthington High School
SAT Middle School Test – December 1, 2018 at Worthington Education Center
ACT High School Test – February 9, 2019 at Thomas Worthington High School
Advanced Placement High School Testing – May 6 – May 17, 2019 at TWHS and WKHS
SAT High School Test – June 1, 2019 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.



For MS ONLY

All 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students who have demonstrated strong academic ability will have the opportunity to take the Scholastic Aptitude Test I (SAT) of the College Board Admissions Testing Program on **Saturday, December 1, 2018** at the **Worthington Education Center, 200 E. Wilson Bridge Road**. The packet with registration information can be picked up from any middle school main office. **Please note:** We do not have packets available at the Worthington Education Center. Registration must be completed via US mail through College Board **no later than November 2, 2018**.

Benefits of Participation: Ideal candidates for this above grade level test administration are those who consistently score above the 90th percentile in math and/or reading on nationally-normed tests such as MAP. For students who consistently perform high on grade-level achievement tests, an above grade-level test, such as the SAT, can provide a more accurate measure of their academic growth and potential. Parents are better able to assess their child’s knowledge and strengths in areas such as math and reading on a test that is designed for college-bound juniors and seniors. *Please note: This is not a practice test. It is an actual SAT national test administration.*

In addition to participating in the SAT, for an additional fee, students may participate in Northwestern University’s Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS) as part of the above grade level testing experience. See information above.

For HS ONLY

2019 Martin W. Essex School for the Gifted **Registration Now Open**

The 2019 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 16-22, 2019

LOCATION: Otterbein University Campus

COST: \$650 - 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>.

For Parents



You are invited to attend the 2016 OAGC State Fall Conference **October 14th through October 16th**

The Ohio Association for Gifted Children will be sponsoring its annual Fall Conference on **October 14th through October 16th, 2018**, 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 14th, 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 2:30 p.m. The keynote speaker, Dr. Brian Housand, will address “The Geeks Have Inherited the Earth.”

Dr. Brian Housand is an associate professor and coordinator of the Academically and Intellectually Gifted Program at East Carolina University. He is currently researching ways to technologically enhance the learning environment and is striving to define creative-productive giftedness in a digital age. Dr. Housand currently serves on the NAGC Board of Directors and is a regular presenter and consultant on the integration of technology and enrichment into the curriculum.

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

SWEPP

SWEPP - Supporting Worthington's Enrichment Programs and Parents

SWEPP is a parent/community organization that supporting academically talented students, exceptional learners, and quality enrichment education in the Worthington School District. Activities include ongoing support of: the Worthington EPP program, enrichment programming within the district, and Honors, Advanced Placement, and International Baccalaureate courses. We also advocate for gifted students at the state and local level and provide a network of support and education for parents. 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. It is not necessary to have a child identified as gifted and/or placed in EPP in order to join - membership is open to any parent in the Worthington School District who wishes to support exceptional learners. For more information about SWEPP, please visit www.swepp.org or www.facebook.com/swepp.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

