



Canal Winchester

LOCAL SCHOOLS

IDENTIFICATION & SERVICES FOR GIFTED STUDENTS

Canal Winchester Local School District

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The focus of the Canal Winchester's Gifted and Talented Program is to provide services to students designated as having superior cognitive ability and/or specific academic ability in reading and/or math.

MISSION STATEMENT

Canal Winchester Local Schools encourages students identified as gifted to develop their own unique intellectual, academic, creative, social and emotional skills in a positive environment that provides support for their specific needs. Gifted services is a continuum of services that creates opportunities for students to experience depth and breadth of learning such as analyzing and synthesizing information, logical reasoning, problem solving, and decision making. The ultimate goal of the program is to assist our students in becoming healthy, productive & contented individuals who are comfortable with, and knowledgeable about, their special talents and gifts.

The Canal Winchester Local School District's identification and services do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, disability, socioeconomic background, nationality or those for whom English is a second language. Testing options are available for culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. If at any time a parent wishes to withdraw their child from the gifted program or services, they may obtain and complete an opt-out form from the district website and submit to the district gifted coordinator.

GIFTED IDENTIFICATION

Gifted Defined

Gifted children thrive on challenge and innovation. They have special needs that must be met in order to help them cope with everyday life and to enable them to blossom to their highest potential. But even the experts have a variety of definitions for the term "gifted." What exactly does the term "gifted" mean? Some would say, "All children are gifted." It is true that all children are special, and all children have unique abilities and strengths. Giftedness does not mark a child in any tangible or visible way. It is not easy to pick out the gifted students in a classroom. A gifted child may not be the kind of student most people expect. He or she may not be a straight-A student. The gifted child is not always a hard worker and sometimes may not be very easy to be around.

Identification of Gifted Children

Ohio's school districts are not required to serve gifted children by law, but they are required to identify students as gifted in grades K-12. The Ohio Revised Code specifies, in general terms, how gifted students are to be identified and outlines best practices for service should a district choose to serve. Children may be identified as gifted in one or more of the following categories:

- Superior Cognitive Ability
- Specific Academic Ability
- Creative Thinking Ability, and/or
- Visual and Performing Arts Ability i.e. Dance, Drama, Art, and/or Music)

Superior Cognitive Ability: A child shall be identified as exhibiting "superior cognitive ability" if the

child did either of the following within the preceding 24 months:

- Scored at least two standard deviations above the mean, minus the standard error of measurement, on an approved standardized individual or group intelligence test.
- Attained an approved score on one or more above-grade-level standardized, nationally normed approved test as deemed a recognized assessment by the Ohio Department of Education.

Specific Academic Ability: A child shall be identified as exhibiting “specific academic ability” superior to that of children of similar age in a specific academic ability field, if the child performed at or above the ninety-fifth percentile at national level on an approved individual or group standardized achievement test of specific academic ability in that field as deemed a recognized assessment by the Ohio Department of Education. The Canal Winchester School District uses the Utilization of Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment.

InView Ability Assessment

The InView Ability assessment will be administered to students in grades 2 and 6. This assessment is similar to an I.Q. test. A score of 128 or higher is needed for identification as superior cognitive. Any student who scores a 127 will be automatically tested using the Woodcock Johnson measure near the end of the school year with parent permission.

Utilization of Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)

The Canal Winchester Local School District will administer the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) in grades K-8. This academic assessment is given three times during the school year and measures student achievement in the areas of math and reading. This assessment is also used to identify gifted students according to the OAC 3301-51-15. With multiple administrations of MAP during the course of the school year, we are able to monitor student academic achievement and optimize student growth. MAP scores can be obtained from the student’s teacher. Parents receive a state identification letter if their child scores at or above the 95th percentile in an academic area and/or achieves a qualifying score on the cognitive abilities test. Receiving a state identification letter does not mean your child is being offered gifted services.

Students are first evaluated for formal gifted services at the end of second grade. Based on the criteria, students can qualify for placement in the pull-out math/language arts class(es). Once placed, students remain in the pull-out (loop) for 3rd, 4th and 5th grades, and a Seminar setting in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. High school courses are then self-selected. A student may qualify new into gifted services during the course of any school year’s MAP administration and be eligible for services starting within the FOLLOWING school calendar year.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA & SPECIFIC SERVICES

While the State of Ohio requires districts to identify gifted students, it does not require districts to offer gifted services or mandate service eligibility. The Canal Winchester Local School District is committed to supporting the learning needs of all children.

The district determines criteria for placement in gifted classes both at the elementary and middle school levels. The purpose of establishing qualifying criteria is to ensure the most appropriate placement for students. Appropriate academic placement is that in which a student is able to meet with success while being challenged, required to develop critical thinking in the content area, and progress at a pace commensurate with ability. Our policies and procedures ensure equal access for all students identified as gifted to receive any available gifted service.

Grades K-2

Classroom teachers provide curricular extensions and enrichment opportunities for students who perform at high levels of academic achievement. One measure of academic achievement is obtained from the MAP testing. Eligibility for gifted services is determined each spring and is based on the most recent set of test scores beginning in 2nd grade.

Students designated as having Superior Cognitive Ability and/or Specific Academic Ability in reading and/or mathematics may be clustered and serviced in the regular classroom during the K-2 years. The regular classroom teacher will differentiate instruction and provide enrichment activities.

Grades 3, 4 & 5

Formal gifted services begin in grade 4. Determination for these classes are made at the end of second grade. Students in grades 3, 4 and/or 5 who have met the criteria below in reading or math will be placed in pull out classes.

- Superior Cognitive Identification – Cognitive ability score of 128 or above on the InView administered during grade 2. (Placed in both reading and math classes.)

OR

- Specific Academic gifted identification. A score of the 95th percentile or above on at least one of the three administered MAP assessments in the previous school year. These classes are called Enrichment Classes and are taught by a Gifted Intervention Specialist.

Please Note: In the State of Ohio, once a child is identified as gifted ~ they are always identified as gifted. They do not lose program eligibility. Once identified gifted, the student is placed in the pull-out classroom the FOLLOWING school year. Example: identified in 3rd grade ~ placed in pull-out classroom in 4th grade and the following years.

Grades 6-8

In grades 6-8, qualifying students are grouped in math and/or language arts classes that are taught by a content area teacher who receives on-going professional development for teaching gifted students. These classes are “Seminar” classes. The curriculum map is designed to ensure rigor and appropriate academic challenge that goes both beyond and in more depth than the regular grade-level curriculum.

Students who have previously participated in 4th and 5th grade Enrichment classes or have newly obtained the qualifying score on the MAP assessment during grade 5 will be placed in Seminar classes unless the child or parent elects to decline participation via an “opt-out” form found on the district website and returned to the Gifted Coordinator.

- Superior Cognitive Identification – Cognitive ability score of 128 or above

OR

- Specific Academic gifted identification. A score of the 95th percentile or above on **at least one** of the three administered MAP assessments in the current school year

Students who qualify with scores at any grade from 3rd on, will be placed in Enrichment and/or Seminar classes through 8th grade.

Algebra I / Honors Geometry

Students obtaining a qualifying MAP RIT score can be considered for Algebra I. Students must then achieve a qualifying score on the Iowa Readiness test. Algebra I is considered an accelerated class placement and begins the student’s high school transcript.

The next step in the progression is that students will then accelerate to the high school Honors Geometry

course.

Grades 9-12

High school students may enroll in Honors classes, Advanced Placement classes, College Credit Plus courses, Dual Enrollment or a combination of these courses. For more information, please contact your high school guidance counselor.

CREATIVE IDENTIFICATION

Students scoring a 112 or higher on the InView in grades 2 and 6 will be screened for Creative Identification using the GATES Gifted and Talented Evaluation Scales.

VISUAL PERFORMING ARTS IDENTIFICATION PLAN GRADES 2-8

In the state of Ohio, the Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) is categorized into Dance, Drama/Theatrics, Music, and Visual Arts. Students have the potential to overlap and be screened and/or identified in multiple areas.

Screening Process:

1. In Canal Winchester, students are screened in the VPA areas in the 2nd, 5th, and 8th grades. Related Arts teachers conduct a whole grade level screening to determine students in need of further evaluation processes. Students may also be referred by an individual outside of their Related Arts teacher(s) (see below).
2. The Assessment the district administers that provides for visual and performing arts identification is the GATES Evaluation Scales – Items 41-50, Screen=70-77, ID=78+

AND

Display of Work of Performance Based Assessment.

3. Any child who meets the screening criteria listed above on the GATES assessment will be mailed a Screening Profile Sheet and permission form. These items must be submitted to Danielle Bartos, Coordinator of Gifted Services, no later than April 5th either digitally dbartos@cwls.us or mailed to 100 Washington Street, Canal Winchester, OH 43110, Attn: Danielle Bartos.
4. Those proceeding with screening will be informed of a time and date during the school day where a 10 minute “Performance Based Assessment” will be given and scored utilizing the Ohio Department of Education’s criterion rubric for each individual VPA area. Students will need to utilize a prepared piece of work and will be given an improvisational piece (music, dance, drama/theatrics) or submit a portfolio containing three prepared pieces of artwork plus enclosed critique and self-reflection as given at time of nomination (visual arts).

Outside Referral Process

Children may be referred, in writing, by an outside individual, such as:

- Child request (self-referral)
- Teacher recommendation (non-Related arts teacher)
- Parent/guardian request
- Child referral of peer; and/or

- Other (e.g., psychologist, community members, principal, gifted coordinator, etc.)

*This referral form shall be known as the Visual Performing Arts Nomination Form and can be found on our school website or via the Ohio Department of Education.

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/Gifted-Education/Gifted-Screening-and-Identification/Visual-and-Performing-Arts-Identification>

Upon receipt of a referral, the district will:

- Follow the process as outlined above; and
- Notify the parents of the results of the screening or assessment and identification within 30 days

Identification

Students meeting the criterion score for VPA gifted identification on either the GATES or Performance Based Assessment will be known as Gifted in that particular area. While the state of Ohio mandates identification in these areas, there is no mandate for service and at this time, Canal Winchester Local Schools does not provide any specific service models.

NEW GIFTED STUDENTS

Students who are new to the Canal Winchester Local School District from another district and have a previous gifted identification will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Documentation of gifted identification from the previous school is required. The district shall accept scores on assessment instruments approved for use by the Ohio Department of Education provided by other school districts and appropriately trained personnel outside the school district R.C. 3301.07 (K), 3324.01 – 3324.07, 3315.09, 3317.024(0) no older than 24 months in order to qualify for gifted services in Canal Winchester.

Eligibility for gifted services in Canal Winchester cannot be determined until proper documentation is received. Additional testing may be required for services on a cases by case basis.

ACCELERATION

Acceleration is an option at every grade level and/or an individual subject and is based on an individual referral from a teacher or parent. Once a referral is received, a review process will be conducted. All data is collected, and the Acceleration Team will meet and make a recommendation. A student may be accelerated when his/her demonstrated achievement as well as his/her measured ability significantly exceeds that of grade level peers. The student must satisfactorily complete subject matter at the current grade and also demonstrate proficiency in the skills and knowledge of that subject for the succeeding grade or academic sequence.

Referral Process

Any parent may obtain a referral form from the district website for additional screening via the Woodcock Johnson in the areas of Superior Cognitive ability, Mathematics, Reading Language Arts, Creative Identification, and/or Visual/Performing Arts. Referrals are accepted in the months of April and August ~ the end and beginning of the MAP testing windows. Screenings will be completed by the Gifted Coordinator and/or School Psychologist within 90 days from the original date of referral. Qualifying results will allow eligibility for gifted services.

Appeal Procedure

An appeal may be made by the parent and/or guardian for reconsideration of the results of any part of the identification process which would include the screening procedure or instrument used which

results in identification, the scheduling of a student for assessment, the placement of a student for services, and/or receipt of services.

Parents should submit a letter to the Gifted Coordinator, Danielle Bartos, Canal Winchester Local School District, 100 Washington Street, Canal Winchester, Ohio 43110 or via email dbartos@cwls.us, outlining the nature of the concern. The Gifted Coordinator will convene a meeting with the parent, which may include other school personnel. A written final decision will be issued within 30 days of the appeal and include the reasons for that decision.

Please Note

Students may be counseled out of a pull-out class or a seminar class if and when it is determined that it is not an appropriate placement for the student at any grade level.

Parents also have the right to “opt” their child out of gifted services by obtaining the proper form from the district website and submitting to the District Gifted Coordinator.