

GIFTED & TALENTED PROGRAM

Program Definition

Gifted and talented students are those of high potential or ability which is evidenced by high intellectual ability, high creative ability, and task commitment and/or motivation. Gifted and talented students' learning characteristics and educational needs require different educational experiences and/or services.

Philosophy

The Westside Public Schools believe that each student should be offered educational experiences which provide opportunities for the development of the student's full potential. Gifted and talented students are those who, by virtue of abilities, talents, and potential for accomplishment, are capable of high performance. Gifted and talented students are found in every segment of the population.

Recognizing the potential rewards for the individual and society, the Westside Public Schools believe the abilities of the gifted and talented student must be cultivated, nurtured, and developed. These students require provisions which are different from those normally provided by the regular school program.

The gifted and talented program is committed to developing within the student a desire for excellence and a sense of productive responsibility to self, school, community, and to our changing society.

Program Goals

The Gifted and Talented Program will:

1. Provide services which will identify gifted and/or talented students.
2. Provide activities to develop critical thinking skills.
3. Develop and improve the student's creativity and higher level thinking skills.
4. Help students develop task commitment, to acquire and/or maintain adequate and realistic self concepts, and to develop a sense of self worth and responsibility to self and society.
5. Be developed and implemented with input from students, staff, parents, and other community members.
6. Enable the students to become self-directed and proficient in written and oral communication skills so that they may creatively share their products with others.
7. Provide the educational programs and differentiated curriculum which will enable each student to develop his/her abilities to the fullest.
8. Develop the student's skills for initiating, planning, and conducting independent research.
9. Utilize the cultural and industrial resources of the region.
10. Keep parents and community well informed.

11. Provide an ongoing program of evaluation.