



Is My Child Gifted?

All children are special and have their own areas of strength. However, some children have unusually advanced abilities that require special adjustments at home and school to help them grow and learn. As you watch your child grow and develop, you may notice skills or characteristics that are quite different from those of other children the same age.

For Example, your child may:

- Be very curious and observant
- Use adult-sounding words and reasoning
- Think of many unusual ideas
- Recognize complex patterns or relationships
- Come to surprising solutions to problems
- Show a strong memory
- Ask unusual questions

Children can show giftedness in a variety of ways, and often parents are the first to notice special abilities. If you are seeing a number of these behaviors in your children, it might be a signal that their development is somewhat advanced.



How to Start the Identification Process.

Parents are encouraged to contact the principal, assistant principal and/or SBLC Chairperson at their child’s school to request a gifted/talented screening.

The Pupil Appraisal Department identifies students who are eligible for the gifted program. A student must be referred, screened and evaluated before entering the program. Once a student has been identified through a formal evaluation, an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) is developed and instructional services are implemented.

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Gifted and Talented Program



The purpose of the Rapides Parish School District's Gifted and Talented Education Program is to provide educational services to students who have the potential for exceptional academic and artistic achievement. The Gifted and Talented Education Program recognizes students who have been identified through a state evaluation as being academically gifted and/or talented in the areas of theatre, music and visual arts.

The goal of the Gifted and Talented Education Program is to challenge, support and inspire gifted and talented students through differentiated, accelerated and enrichment learning opportunities designed to meet their unique academic, social and emotional needs.





AN ARTISTICALLY TALENTED STUDENT . . .

- Elaborates on other people's ideas and uses them as a jumping off point as opposed to copying from others
- Shows unique selection of art media for individual activity or classroom projects
- Has unusual and richly imaginative ideas
- Composes with unusual detail and skill
- Displays compulsive artistic pursuit

WHAT IS TAUGHT IN TALENTED VISUAL ART?

Aesthetic Development: Essential art elements, principles of design, respect for commonalities and differences in art; art as expressions of ideas, feelings, and culture

Art History: Styles, periods, movements, simplified chronology, and outstanding artists

Analysis and Criticism: Observe, describe, analyze, interpret, and make critical judgments of artwork

Creative Expression: Develop creative problem solving skills in "art making;" experience a variety of media—drawing, painting, graphic design, printmaking, mixed media, sculpture, photography, and architecture

Art Business: Career opportunities

A MUSICALLY TALENTED STUDENT . . .

- Shows a sustained interest in music
- Seeks out opportunities to hear and create music
- Perceives fine differences in musical tone (pitch, loudness, timbre, and duration)
- Easily remembers melodies and can reproduce them accurately
- Eagerly participates in musical activities
- Plays a musical instrument, indicates a strong desire to become a musician or is sensitive to the rhythm of music
- Responds to changes in the tempo of music through body movements
- Is aware of and can identify a variety of sounds heard at a given moment

WHAT IS TAUGHT IN TALENTED MUSIC?

Theory and Analysis: Sight singing, rhythm, melodic dictation, harmonic dictation, stylistic form and analysis

Music History: Major musical periods, composers, styles and forms

Creative Activities: Improvisation, arranging, composition

Aesthetic Perception and Performance: Technical facility, varied music styles, musical expression, and evaluation of performances

Music business: Current music occupations



A THEATRICALY TALENTED STUDENT . . .

- Volunteers to participate in classroom plays or skits
- Easily tells a story or gives an account of some experience
- Effectively uses gestures and facial expressions to communicate feelings
- Is adept at role-playing, improvising or acting out situations
- Can readily identify himself or herself with moods of others
- Handles body with ease and poise for his or her particular age
- Creates original plays or makes up plays from stories
- Commands and holds the attention of a group when speaking
- Is able to make people laugh, frown, feel tense, etc.
- Can imitate others—mimic the way people speak, walk, and/or gesture

WHAT IS TAUGHT IN TALENTED THEATRE?

Performance Skills: Improvisation, characterization, vocal development, stage movement, acting styles and methods

Theatre History: Greek and Roman theatre, medieval theatrical forms, Renaissance theatre and Shakespeare, modern forms, and absurdist theatre

Analysis and Criticism: Play analysis, dramatic theory, interpretive reading, and dramatic forms

Theatre Production and Business: Directing, scene design, stagecraft, stage management and current professional theatre opportunities