



Gifted & Talented Services

Frequently Asked Questions

What are gifted and talented services?

Gifted/talented (G/T) services allow us to meet the specific needs of intellectually gifted and highly academically talented students who require differentiated services beyond those normally provided by the regular school program. The G/T Coordinator works with teachers and students in all grades and subject areas.

What is the Gifted and Talented “Program”?

District 28 does not have a gifted “program.” Instead we provide a continuum of flexible services that vary based on students’ needs. These services range from the G/T Coordinator collaborating with teachers to extend curriculum, to joining classroom instruction and assisting with students, to working one-on-one with a student...to anything and everything in between.

Among these services are Advanced Math (4th-8th) and Advanced Language Arts (6th-8th) classes. These replacement classes are provided for students who have demonstrated a consistent need for alternative above grade-level curriculum with advanced critical thinking and problem solving opportunities.

Continuum of Gifted and Talented Services

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Math	G/T Coordinator provides support through consulting and co-planning with teachers, working with small-groups, and/or conducting whole-class lessons.				Students who are formally placed in Advanced Math have daily math instruction with an Advanced Math teacher. In grades 4 and 5 this is the G/T Coordinator. The G/T Coordinator supports students not formally identified for Advanced Math through teacher consultation and differentiation in the classroom.			Placement in Advanced Math, Algebra, and Geometry are determined by the Junior High School. The G/T Coordinator supports students not formally identified for advanced math courses through teacher consultation and differentiation in the classroom.	
Language Arts	G/T Coordinator provides support through consulting and co-planning with teachers, working with small-groups, and/or conducting whole-class lessons.						Students who are formally placed in Advanced LA have daily LA instruction with an Advanced LA teacher. G/T Coordinator supports students not formally identified for Advanced LA through teacher consultation, and differentiation in the classroom.		
Other Subject Areas	G/T Coordinators work with teachers to provide all students with opportunities for challenge in all subject areas through consulting and co-planning with teachers.								

How are students identified for advanced math and language arts classes?

The identification process is designed to create a well-rounded understanding of each child as a learner. A student's proficiency with math or language arts concepts, reasoning and critical thinking abilities, and classroom performance are considered to determine which courses will best meet a student's learning needs.

Who may test for the formal advanced math and language arts classes?

Math: All students are considered for placement into advanced math classes in the spring of 3rd and 6th grades (for placement the following year) using district assessments. Students in 4th and 5th grades may be evaluated based on parent or teacher referral.

Language Arts: All students are considered for placement into advanced language arts classes in the spring of 5th grade (for placement the following year). Students in 6th and 7th grade may be evaluated based on parent or teacher referral.

When is testing for placement into formal advanced math and language arts classes?

Winter/Spring testing is for placement into advanced classes for the following school year. All assessments occur during the regular school day.

My child works with a G/T Coordinator for math or language arts. Does that mean he or she is or will be in an advanced class?

No. Because of our flexible services, many students who work with a G/T Coordinator do so without ever being formally identified for advanced classes.

What should I do if I'm unsure if the formal advanced math and/or language arts class is the best fit for my child?

Your best bet is to speak with your child's teachers or contact your G/T Coordinator for more information.

To whom can I speak about making sure my child is appropriately challenged?

Your child's teacher is always the best person to start with. You can also speak with the G/T Coordinator.

Where can I find more information about District 28's Gifted and Talented services?

You can visit the G/T page on the District 28 website or contact your school's G/T Coordinator for more information.

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