

# Greenwich-Stow Creek Partnership Schools

## Gifted & Talented

### Gifted and Talented Curriculum

#### Gifted Program Overview

The purpose of the gifted and talented program is to inspire our students to learn, think, grow, and excel in life. By working in partnership with our community, the district will ensure access to enriching and challenging learning experiences for all students, so that each student's potential may be maximized. Instruction will be framed in real world problems that will prepare students to successfully contribute to a global society and to embrace lifelong learning.

#### Program Goals and Objectives

- Support student aptitude, eagerness to learn, responsibility, and accountability.
- Stimulate higher-order, critical, and creative thinking.
- Promote shared inquiry for investigative, problem solving, and decision-making skills.
- Enhance collaboration, communication, and presentation skills.
- Provide opportunities for leadership and self-directed learning.
- Develop learners who contribute successfully to a global society.

#### Levels of Services

##### Services for ALL Students...Grades K-8

- Maximize the potential of all learners through differentiated instruction in the daily classroom setting. Deliver enrichment opportunities within the classroom. Provide foundational skills for discovering interests and building talents within the academic program, along with thorough participation in school sponsored clubs, activities, field trips, and assemblies.

##### Services for Students Identified for Gifted Program...Grades 4-8

- Our gifted and talented extra-curricular enrichment program brings together identified students, provides them with an intellectually stimulating curriculum, and creates the opportunity to develop and apply advanced skills for creative and critical thinking. The program meets after regular school hours. Students meet in one of two grade-level clusters: grades 4-6 and grades 7-8. Groups meet for three six-week units of study (eighteen sessions total per group.) The gifted and talented teacher provides schedules to participating students.

#### Identification Process

Multiple measures are used to determine student eligibility in Greenwich Stow Creek's gifted and talented program. The identification process incorporates two phases:

##### Phase I – Global Screening of All Students, Grades 4-8

- Screening of grade 4-8 students will occur annually in September by the gifted and talented teacher. New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA) scores will be used for this initial screening. Students must attain a combined language arts literacy and math score of at least 1575

##### Phase II – Identification

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- In grades kindergarten through five, multiple measures for identification include independent reading level assessment, diagnostic reading assessment, diagnostic math assessment and exemplar, teacher observations of student proficiency, and NJSLA scores for students in grades 4 - 5. These assessments are administered annually to identify students who will qualify.  
In grades six through eight, multiple measures for annual identification include student proficiency in a variety of courses, and/or completion of prerequisite requirements  
All students have access to enrichment through these channels.

### Twice Gifted Students

The Twice Exceptional (Gifted & Talented) program provides engaging courses designed to meet the unique intellectual and social requirements of high-ability students who also have special needs. The program helps students excel and achieve by:

- Emphasizing strengths and addresses areas of weakness through differentiated instruction
- Discovering and nurturing areas of interest through enrichment activities
- Supporting social thinking and provides guidance in social skills and basic social etiquette
- Encouraging new experiences and self-advocacy through advanced preparation and student choice

### Transfer Students

Grade 4-8 students who transfer into Greenwich Stow Creek and were active participants in their former school's gifted and talented program will automatically be admitted into our district's program. The school counselor will alert gifted and talented teacher of these students upon review of student file

### Notification Process

Parents/Guardians are notified in writing if their child has met eligibility criteria for entrance into the district's gifted and talented program. Parent permission (signature of acceptance) is required for placement and participation.

### Reasons for Removal

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A student may be withdrawn from the gifted and talented program when:

- The student's pull-out program performance is inadequate, or
- There is a decline in the student's academic classroom performance, or
- The student wishes to withdraw and his/her parent/guardian consents, or
- The student's parent/guardian requests withdrawal.

Parents will be notified of any decision to remove a student from the gifted and talented program, and a copy of this notification will be kept on file by gifted and talented teacher. Students who are removed from the program will have the opportunity to be reevaluated the following year.