

Referral Process



Teachers, administrators, parents and/or any other qualified individual may refer a student as a candidate for gifted education testing. Pre-referral meetings are arranged to discuss the testing process and qualifying attributes for considering testing. Post-referral meetings are conducted for the team to review the test results. The team consists of a gifted staff representative, the building principal, the classroom teacher, the counselor and parents of the student. A student may be tested twice during elementary school and one time in sixth through eighth grade, and one time in ninth through twelfth grade. Referral documents are available from building administrators and counselors.

Minimum Eligibility Criteria

Students must meet the minimum eligibility criteria set by the **Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**. These include test data and information from the following:

- **General Mental Ability** - measured by the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, Fourth Edition (WISC IV); Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scale, Edition V
- **Academic Ability** - measured by a standardized achievement test; KTEA II

Placement

Once a student qualifies for and is placed in the Gifted Program, he or she may continue receiving gifted services each year. It is not required that a student be retested each school year.

Withdrawal

A student may be withdrawn from the Gifted Program for any of the following:

- Student recommendation
- Parent recommendation
- Collaboration between the student, parent, teacher and Director of Gifted Education

Attendance

Students are expected to attend class each week. Building principals may excuse a student or group of students from attending gifted class only under special circumstance, (e.g. state MAP testing). Building principals will notify the gifted director and teacher of these special circumstances in advance. **Please note the procedures below that will be followed under the Gifted Center's Attendance Policy.**

1. Upon the first unexcused absence, parent(s) will be contacted by the gifted education teacher to inquire about the absence.
2. The second unexcused absence will result in a meeting involving the parent(s) and gifted education committee to determine if the student's placement in the Gifted Education Center is in the student's best interest and should remain in effect.
3. A third unexcused absence will result in the student's withdraw from the Gifted Education program.

According to the **Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**, up to 5% of a district's population may be enrolled in Gifted Education. The Joplin Schools Elementary Gifted Program serves the district's 11 elementary schools. Students who attend private schools or are home-schooled are also eligible as candidates for gifted services, provided that the parent or legal guardian lives within the Joplin School District and the student is enrolled in the district.

Transfer students are eligible for the Gifted Program if:

- Previously enrolled in a Missouri state-assisted gifted program which meets or exceed Joplin's placement criteria
- Testing requested by parent meets the established placement criteria



"What we want is to see the child in pursuit of knowledge, and not knowledge in pursuit of the child."

-George Bernard Shaw

The Elementary Gifted Center is located at 610 S. Forest Street in Joplin, Missouri inside McKinley Elementary School. In accordance with district security procedures, visitors must enter the building through the main doors located on the east side of the building on Forest Street. Visitors must check in with the receptionist before continuing to the Gifted Center classrooms.

Middle School and High School Gifted Students receive services at their respective school of attendance.



Contact Information

Messages may be left for the Elementary Gifted teachers by calling McKinley Elementary at 417-625-5325. Questions may also be directed to Terri Hart, principal at McKinley Elementary and director of the Elementary Gifted program.

Transportation

Busing between Joplin elementary schools and the Gifted Center is provided by the Joplin School District Transportation Department. Individuals attending private schools are required to provide their own transportation.



Joplin Schools Elementary Gifted Staff

Wendee Hughes	Second, Third, Fourth Grades eMINTS Teacher
Elaina Edman	Fourth & Fifth Grades eTEC Teacher

Elementary Curriculum Goals

Based on the constructivist educational theory, the curriculum of the Joplin Schools Gifted Program addresses the intellectual abilities and academic strengths of students through the integration of higher level thinking skills and technology. Curriculum is delivered through multi-disciplinary thematic units and inquiry-based activities.

The primary goal is to create an autonomous learner, a student who learns to solve problems and develop new ideas. He / She should grow to be an independent, self-directed learner responsible for the development, implementation, and evaluation of his / her own lifelong learning.

Strand I

Research (Acquiring Knowledge)

1. Use a variety of tools to conduct research to answer questions and evaluate information and ideas
2. Discover and evaluate patterns and relationships in information, ideas, and structures
3. Organize data, information, and ideas into useful forms including charts, graphs, outlines for analysis or presentation

Strand II

Communication (Sharing Knowledge)

1. Plan and make written, oral, and visual presentations for a variety of purposes and audiences
2. Exchange information, questions, and ideas while recognizing the perspectives of others
3. Present perceptions and ideas regarding works of the arts, humanities, and sciences

Strand III

Problem Solving (Applying Knowledge)

1. Identify and examine problems and proposed solutions from multiple perspectives
2. Reason inductively from a set of specific facts and deductively from general premises
3. Evaluate the processes used in recognizing and solving problems

Strand IV

Affective (Emotional Knowledge)

1. Identify tasks that require a coordinated effort and work with others to complete those tasks
2. Explain reasoning and identify information used to support decisions
3. Identify and apply practices that preserve and enhance the emotional health of self and others

Learning Characteristics

Gifted children are natural learners who often show many of these characteristics:

- They may show keen powers of observation and a sense of the significant; they have an eye for important details.
- They may read a great deal on their own, preferring books and magazines written for children older than they are.
- They often take great pleasure in intellectual activity.
- They have well-developed powers of abstraction, conceptualization, and synthesis.
- They readily see cause-effect relationships.
- They often display a questioning attitude and seek information for its own sake as much as for its usefulness.
- They are often skeptical, critical, and evaluative. They are quick to spot inconsistencies.
- They often have a large storehouse of information about a variety of topics, which they can recall quickly.
- They readily grasp underlying principles and can often make valid generalizations about events, people, or objects.
- They quickly perceive similarities, differences, and anomalies.
- They often attack complicated material by separating it into components and analyzing it systematically.

Creative Characteristics

Gifted children's creative abilities often set them apart from their age-mates. These characteristics may take the following forms:

- Gifted children are fluent thinkers, able to generate possibilities, consequences, or related ideas.
 - They are flexible thinkers, able to use many different alternatives and approaches to problem solving.
 - They are original thinkers, seeking new, unusual, or unconventional associations and combinations among items of information.
 - They can also see relationships among seemingly unrelated objects, ideas, or facts.
 - They are elaborate thinkers, producing new steps, ideas, responses, or other embellishments to a basic idea, situation, or problems.
 - They are willing to entertain complexity and seem to thrive on problem solving.
 - They are good guessers and can readily construct hypotheses or "what if" questions.
 - They often are aware of their own impulsiveness and irrationality, and they show emotional sensitivity.
 - They are extremely curious about objects, ideas, situations, or events.
 - They often display intellectual playfulness and like to fantasize and imagine.
 - They can be less intellectually inhibited than their peers are in expressing opinions and ideas, and they often disagree spiritedly with others' statements.
 - They are sensitive to beauty and are attracted to aesthetic values.
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Questions for Parenting a Gifted Child

General Behavior Characteristics

1. Do you answer your child's questions with patience and good humor?
2. Do you take advantage of questions and expressions of interest to guide your child into further learning and explorations?
3. Do you help develop physical and social skills as carefully as you encourage mental growth?
4. Do you help your child learn to get along with children of all levels of intelligence?
5. Do you avoid comparing your child with siblings or companions?
6. Do you show love for its own sake and not for intellectual achievement?
7. Do you set reasonable standards of behavior for your child and see that they are met?
8. Do you provide early opportunities for decision making with follow-up of learning to evaluate decisions after carrying out whatever action was taken?
9. Do you try to find something specific to praise when your child shows their work? (A generalized compliment "good" means little to gifted children.)
10. Do you help find worthwhile and challenging reading materials and television programs?
11. Do you provide hobby materials and books?
12. Do you find places where your child can study and work at hobbies?
13. Do you provide a place to display work?
14. Do you let your child learn about and share in some of your hobbies and interests?
15. Do you take your child on trips to points of interest?
16. Do you provide lessons and activities that are available through private groups, universities, or community organizations?
17. Do you teach your child how to budget time, organize work and improve study habits?
18. Do you help your child make plans and decisions?
19. Do you give your child increasing independence as the ability to handle responsibility increases?
20. Do you provide household responsibilities and other tasks suitable to your child's age level?



Gifted Teacher Certification

General Requirements

- A. A valid Missouri teaching certificate
- B. Two years classroom teaching experience, and
- C. Psychology and/or Education of the Exceptional Child class

Professional Requirements

- A. A minimum of nine (9) semester hours selected from the five (5) basic fields of knowledge:
 - A Survey of Gifted and Talented Education
 - Programming, Planning, and Development: An Understanding of Administration and Supervision of Gifted Programs
 - Screening, Assessing, and Evaluating Gifted Students
 - Curriculum and Instruction for the Gifted
 - Meeting the Affective Needs of Gifted Students.
- B. A minimum of one (1) graduate course in research procedures, and
- C. A three (3)-semester hour practicum beyond the courses required for elementary and secondary certification, involving college or university supervised instruction of gifted students.



Websites for Parents

Websites are available that provide a wealth of information about gifted students and education. Below are web addresses and a brief description of each site's content.

www.cectag.org

Provided by the Council for Exceptional Children, this site helps parents deal more effectively with the gifted child.

www.nagc.org

The National Association for Gifted Children is an organization for parents, educators, and community leaders to address the unique needs of gifted children.

www.SENGifted.org

Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted focuses primarily on the adults in the lives of gifted children. Included is information on identification, guidance, and effective ways to live and work with gifted individuals.

www.hoagiesgifted.org

This site contains a resource guide for the education of gifted children, as well as links to resources.

www.gifted-children.com

This is an online newsletter for parents.

<http://gtworld.org/index.html>

GT World is an on-line support community for parents of gifted and talented children.

www.gifteddevelopment.com

Provided by the Gifted Development Center is information on identification, assessment, counseling, learning styles, and other information for gifted children and adults.

www.geniusdenied.com

Based on the book, "Genius Denied," this site features information for students and parents.

*"Our children are
normal. They just aren't
typical."*

--Jim Delisle

Family Field Trips

The Gifted Center often enjoys the tradition of an annual family field trip. It has become a favorite activity of the families of gifted children.

Purpose of the Family Field Trip:

- Students have an opportunity to further explore an area of study
- Families of gifted children have an opportunity to network with each other
- Siblings have an opportunity to be a part of the gifted program

History of Family Field Trips:

Gifted Center teachers plan the trip to coordinate with a unit of study.

<u><i>Year</i></u>	<u><i>Unit Topic</i></u>	<u><i>Destination</i></u>
<i>Spring 2000</i>	<i>Space</i>	<i>Hutchinson, KS</i>
<i>Fall 2000</i>	<i>Ocean</i>	<i>St. Louis, MO</i>
<i>Fall 2001</i>	<i>Aeronautics</i>	<i>Wichita, KS</i>
<i>Fall 2002</i>	<i>Lewis and Clark</i>	<i>St. Charles, MO</i>
<i>Spring 2004</i>	<i>Geology</i>	<i>Meramec Caverns Elephant Rocks Johnson's Shut-ins</i>
<i>Winter 2005</i>	<i>Music</i>	<i>Branson, MO</i>
<i>Fall 2006</i>	<i>Inventions</i>	<i>Oklahoma City, OK</i>
<i>Spring 2007</i>	<i>Africa</i>	<i>Kansas City, MO</i>
<i>Spring 2008</i>	<i>Ocean</i>	<i>Tulsa, OK</i>
<i>Fall 2008</i>	<i>History's Mysteries</i>	<i>Branson, MO</i>

Program History

- In the early 90's, the elementary Gifted Education program was housed at Irving Elementary in two classrooms with two teachers. Students attending were in grades 3, 4, and 5.
- The middle school teacher traveled between the two middle schools daily for students in grades 6, 7, and 8.
- The curriculum during this time was multi-disciplinary with an emphasis on research skills.
- During this time second grade was added to the student base.
- The Gifted Center concept became a reality when the entire program was moved to Park Academy. The elementary and middle school students both attended the Center. The elementary attended one day a week and the middle school students attended daily for one class period.
- The student population then expanded to include Kindergarten, first and ninth grades. Additional staff was hired to accommodate these students.
- During this time the Joplin R-VIII School District made a commitment to attempt to identify for the program 5% of the total school population.
- The Gifted Education program of the Joplin R-VIII School District was recognized by the state of Missouri as an exemplary program and a model for the state.
- In 1999 the Parents and Advocates of Gifted Education (P.A.G.E.) was organized to support the Gifted Program in the Joplin Schools.
- The Elementary and Middle School Gifted programs were later moved to Memorial Middle School where the students were bused to that location for services.
- The Elementary Gifted program was moved to McKinley Elementary beginning the 2009–2010 school year. The three Joplin middle schools - East, North and South - began servicing their students at their locations during the 2009-2010 as well.



Gifted Association of Missouri (GAM)

Founded in 1981, GAM seeks to "Expand the Promise" of gifted education in Missouri through advocacy, information, and greater awareness of the unique educational needs of the gifted and talented.

Purpose

- To create an awareness among parents, educators and the general public of the characteristics, needs and educational requirements of the gifted and talented.
- To support the development and funding of programs for the gifted and talented.
- To share and disseminate information about existing local, state and national educational programs for the gifted and talented.
- To encourage research relating to the identification and education of gifted and talented children and to assist in the dissemination of the information obtained to educators and the public.

Mission

We, the members of the Gifted Association of Missouri, believe an appropriate education is every Missourian's concern.

We also believe children with unusual potential have unique learning needs. We recognize that Missourians must become aware of these children and their needs at home, at school, and in the community. Therefore, the Gifted Association of Missouri sets as its goals:

- Be a leader for gifted children in the school reform movement.
- Empower parents of gifted children to become informed and active advocates for their gifted children.
- Ensure adequate funding for the education of gifted children in Missouri.

Updated 9/3/05

Learn more GAM and explore the value of membership by visiting the GAM website at www.mogam.org.

Parents and Advocates of Gifted Education



What is P.A.G.E.?

A Resource for Teachers:

- P.A.G.E. annually sends the Gifted Center teachers to the GAM (Gifted Association of Missouri) conference or to NAGC (National Association for Gifted Education) conference, covering expenses for tuition, room and board.
- P.A.G.E. recognizes the Gifted Center teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week.
- P.A.G.E. assists teachers with classroom projects by providing parent volunteers.

A Resource for Students:

- P.A.G.E. provides a variety of equipment, computer accessories, and classroom items.
- P.A.G.E. provides refreshments for special for special events throughout the year.
- P.A.G.E. assists in organizing volunteers for special classroom projects and field trips.

A Resource for Parents:

- The Gifted Center teachers provide information on parenting gifted students through a lending library.



