

LAUREL HIGHLANDS SCHOOL DISTRICT GIFTED SUPPORT SERVICES

Laurel Highlands School District provides gifted support services for students who have been identified as gifted students and need additional services beyond the regular education curriculum. A multi-criteria process, based on Pennsylvania Department of Education Guidelines, is used to identify students for gifted support services.

GIFTED CRITERIA

Minimum full scale IQ or GAI = 125

AND

At least 3 out of 4 of the following for grades 3-12 and 2 of the 4 for grades K-2:

- ★ Advanced PSSA Reading and Math scores
- ★ 3.7 GPA or Higher
- ★ At least 2 grade levels above grade level on a standardized achievement test
- ★ A T-score of 60 or higher on 4 out of 6 domains



In addition to the above criteria, the student must demonstrate the need for specially designed differentiated

instruction and or services beyond those normally provided in the general education classroom.

The mission of the Laurel Highlands School District's gifted support services in partnership with families is to provide educational support, and extend the regular curriculum while promoting the unique abilities of individual students, which will enable them to become independent, continuous learners and contributors to the community. The goal of our gifted services is for students to view learning as a lifelong process that enriches the individual and benefits society.

The instructional focus is based on engaging the student in challenging tasks whether these tasks are replacement or core instruction:

- ★ Extending and refining knowledge through the development of complex reasoning skills such as comparing, classifying, abstracting, inductive reasoning, deductive reasoning, constructing support, analyzing errors and analyzing perspectives.
- ★ Students participating in complex tasks and educational opportunities, which foster their creative expression, enrich their knowledge base, and stimulate them to excel as self-directed learners.
- ★ Guiding students to use knowledge meaningfully with skills such as decision-making, problem solving, experimental inquiry, system analysis and investigations.
- ★ Promoting habits of the mind that exemplify critical thinking, creative thinking, and self regulated thinking
- ★ Developing the personal and social awareness of each student. Students develop the appropriate skills, concepts and attitudes to be a successful life-long learner. The

students will comprehend their own giftedness in relationship to self and society.

- ★ They will develop a better understanding of self and their interest, aptitudes and areas of strength. The students will demonstrate the development of interpersonal skills. They will comprehend the importance of career decision-making and explore careers related to areas of personal interest.



Differentiation/responsive learning experiences occur at all levels as the teachers plan lessons to meet the needs and strengths of their students. All Laurel Highlands instructional staff has received extensive in-services training in Understanding by Design and Differentiated Instruction. Thus gifted support services are a combination of time with the gifted support teacher and with the regular education teacher.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Elementary School Gifted Services are designed to provide educational experiences that support and extend the regular curriculum. These services provide complex tasks and challenges through planned learning experiences that reflect the Dimensions of Learning model. Students will be pulled out of the regular classroom and attend a gifted support class in the middle school. Students work in small groups with their intellectual peers on a theme or topic that is being taught. The students' individual skills and habits are embedded into these themes or topics. Students work individually on critical thinking skills, logic and reasoning skills, math extensions and as a group on an affective lesson.



MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Middle School 6th, 7th and 8th grade Gifted Services are designed to offer a continuum of services to meet the diverse needs of gifted students. A variety of service delivery options are available for students within the Middle School Gifted Program dependent upon students' individual needs and interests. Students can participate in a pull out class designed with planned learning experiences. Students may also receive consultative services through a push-in model with the Gifted Support Teacher who will monitor progress and adjustment at the middle school level. These consultative services will be offered weekly and as necessary throughout the academic year.



HIGH SCHOOL

The High School Gifted Services are designed to offer a continuum of services to meet the diverse needs of gifted students. A variety of service delivery options are available for students within the High School Gifted Program dependent upon students' individual needs and interests. Students will be offered consultative services with the Gifted Support Teacher who will monitor progress and adjustment at the high school level. Included in this service will be the creation of a student portfolio in preparation for college visitations. These consultative services will be offered weekly and as necessary throughout the academic year. Honors and Advanced Placement academic courses are

additional options available in the High School Gifted Services.

Laurel Highlands School District



GIFTED PROGRAM

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