

Is this child gifted?

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Special Interest Articles

Definitions

What can I look for? – key characteristics

What “special” considerations are there?

What is the programming at Kent City Schools?

And other questions...

(SC) Superior Cognitive Ability

IQ or equivalent 2 sd above norm; **ID @ 127-129** (depending on assessment). *The cognitive abilities of a child with 130 IQ are as far from the norm (100) as one with 70 IQ!!*

Specific Academic Ability

Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies

Perform **at or above the 95th percentile** on a standardized achievement test of specific academic ability in that field.

Creative Thinking Ability

Combined cognitive ability and creativity scaled scores

Visual/ Performing Arts Ability

A separate assessment opportunity is provided each winter

Perhaps you have a particularly bright student, or one who asks advanced questions, or who complains about being “bored, or who is intensely curious, or...Could this child be “gifted”?



Key characteristics of gifted children

The following characteristics are by no means comprehensive or universal, but can help you to think about the special needs of our advanced learners:

Learning Characteristics

- Reasons well
- Advanced vocabulary
- Excellent memory
- Learns very quickly
- Seems to know many things
- Understands abstract ideas
- Shows ability with numbers
- Can state similarities and differences in relationships
- Understands cause and effect
- Makes decisions easily
- Eager to learn new ideas
- Early/ avid reader

Creativity Characteristics

- Questioning/curious about many topics
- Vivid imagination
- Has many ideas
- Sees things in many different ways
- Offers unique or unusual solutions
- Adds interesting details
- Transforms or combines ideas
- Sees implications or consequences easily
- Comfortable with disagreeing
- Appreciates subtle humor

Motivation Characteristics

- Sets own goals, standards, and plans
- Intense involvement in preferred tasks
- Enthusiastic about interests and activities
- Needs little external motivation when pursuing preferred tasks
- Prefers to concentrate/ long attention span for on preferred tasks
- High level of energy
- Does not give up easily
- Completes projects
- Eager for new challenges
- Assumes responsibility

Other Characteristics

- Very sensitive (feelings hurt easily)and compassionate
- Exceptional ethical behavior/ expectations for others
- Perfectionistic
- Prefers older companions/ adults
- Good at jigsaw puzzles





Our kids are normal. They just aren't typical...

– Jim Delisle



Hide not your talents. They for use were made. What's a sundial in the shade?

– Benjamin Franklin

How many students are REALLY gifted, anyway?

In that identification is based on standard deviations (SD) from a mean, and that "gifted" is demonstrated ability at 2SD...

Given a typical population: **2.5% are Cognitively Gifted & 5% are gifted in any one of the academic areas.**

Giftedness in the Arts is not based on SD. It is therefore to be expected that approximately **15-18% of our population is gifted in at least one area!**

This child is gifted??

As you look at your students, consider that gifted children are as varied in their habits, personalities, motivations, and interests as any other group of children.

Hard-working and compliant children are most likely to be recommended for gifted assessment because they fit a traditional "idea" of what a gifted child should "look like"!

Gifted children may be

difficult to motivate to action, or perhaps to sit quietly – they have so much happening in their heads that the moment's classwork isn't fitting in.

Gifted children may have a disability (such as dyslexia, ADHD) that masks their cognitive abilities.

Gifted children are very rarely gifted in all areas, and may struggle significantly in some, including skill sets like organization, study habits, reading strategies, etc.

Gifted children who are not proficient with standard

English can be overlooked by traditional screening measures.

Highly non-verbal gifted children often lack opportunities to demonstrate their gifts in the traditional classroom; the same with gifts in visual and performing arts.

Often the most challenging students are those whose needs as highly gifted students are not easily met in the regular classroom.

How are students served at KENT CITY SCHOOLS?

KENT CITY SCHOOLS

provides formal Gifted Services for students in grades 4-8 who are identified as having superior cognitive ability and/ or specific reading ability as determined by achieving an identifying score on an approved assessment .

Students' cognitive, creative, and specific academic abilities are assessed in second and fourth grades; students who score in the screening range are re-evaluated for gifted identification.

Services in grades 4 and 5 are provided daily as part of the English language arts class with the gifted intervention specialist co-teaching with the classroom teacher. Student goals for reading and/ or superior cognitive ability will be met in this environment.

Services in grades 6 through 8 are provided daily in the English language arts class by a classroom teacher who is

a gifted intervention specialist or trained/ qualified teacher. Student goals for reading and/ or superior cognitive ability will be met in this environment.

FAQs –

What are the LEGAL requirements for identification and Service in Ohio?

Ohio law requires that districts IDENTIFY students in each of the areas, though the when and how is currently at district discretion. At this point there are no requirements to serve students in any area or grade level. Thus, Kent elects to serve cognitively gifted and reading identified students in grades 4 and 5.

Are there professional support networks for teachers and parents of gifted children?

YES! The Ohio Association for Gifted children (www.oagc.com) is the foremost support and

YOUR GIFTED SERVICES TEAM:

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EVERY Teacher, Staff Member and Administrator!!!!

advocacy group in Ohio, and has special divisions just for parents and for teachers.

Is subject or grade acceleration a good idea for gifted students? It might be!

Each child recommended for acceleration will be individually considered with regard to data and other information gathered to determine the best placement for the child. More Information available [here](#).