

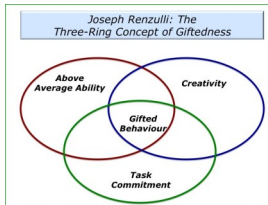
Characteristics of the Highly Capable Student

As defined by the Washington Administrative Code (WAC 392-170-035), highly capable students are students who

perform or show potential for performing at significantly advanced academic levels when compared with others of their age, experiences, or environments. Outstanding abilities are seen within students; general intellectual aptitudes, specific academic abilities, and/or creative productivities within a specific domain.

Further WAC 392-170-036 states that “the term learning characteristics means that students who are highly capable may possess, but are not limited to, these learning characteristics:

- Capacity to learn with unusual depth of understanding, to retain what has been learned, and to transfer learning to new situations;
- Capacity and willingness to deal with increasing levels of abstraction and complexity earlier than their chronological peers;
- Creative ability to make unusual connections among ideas and concepts;
- Ability to learn quickly in their area(s) of intellectual strength; and
- Capacity for intense concentration and/or focus.



Referral Process

Any NTPS staff member or member of the community can refer a student to participate in the highly capable identification process. Referral forms can be found on the district website under Family Resources/Highly Capable Program/Refer a Student.

Parents/Guardians who wish their student to participate, can complete a Parent/Guardian Application and Consent form also found on the district website under Family Resources/Highly Capable Program/Highly Capable Program Forms.

Assessment

Students will be assessed using the HOPE Teacher Rating Scale and the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT®). Additionally, students who obtain qualifying scores on the CogAT®, may be asked to take a computerized academic achievement test in the areas of reading and math.

Selection

A multi-disciplinary selection committee will review the collected assessment data and make placement decisions.

Appeal

Any parent/guardian dissatisfied with a selection decision may appeal, in writing, for a review to the Superintendent's designee prior to the start of the next academic quarter.



*COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE:
Providing every student the academic and life skills necessary to succeed in a diverse world.*

Highly Capable Program

2021-2022 School Year

NORTH THURSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

305 College St NE, Lacey, WA 98516
Tel 360-412-4497 Fax 360-412-4555
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Elementary Services

Grades K-2

Once identified, highly capable students in Grades K-2 will have access to accelerated learning through differentiation in their neighborhood school.

Grades 3-5

Identified highly capable students entering grades 3-5, may be served either in a self-contained program (**Talented and Gifted (TAG)**) or at their neighborhood school through differentiation and cluster grouping.

Housed at Lakes Elementary School, students who are accepted into the TAG program will experience a rigorous academic curriculum and will be expected to meet standards approximately one year above their regular grade level. They may opt to participate in one, two or three years of this three-year program.

Goals of the TAG program are:

- To bring together highly capable students and provide accelerated academic opportunities;
- To offer a rigorous academic curriculum to prepare students for learning opportunities at the secondary level and beyond;
- To offer an environment where highly capable students are encouraged to reach their full potential; and
- To address the social and emotional needs of students through peer interaction and fostering a sense of community.

Applications for the TAG program are accepted during the month of February for placement in the next academic year.

Middle School Services

Grades 6-8

Once identified, highly capable students entering grades 6-8 may be served through an accelerated math pathway, a highly capable ELA/social studies pathway or through differentiation in their neighborhood school. Students may qualify for both pathways.

For science, students may be cluster grouped with differentiated instruction.

Note: qualified students wanting to participate in the Grade 8 Highly Capable math class, must have successfully completed Algebra I prior to the beginning of the school year in which services are to commence.

Students of this program can expect a faster paced curriculum, greater complexity and earlier introduction of knowledge and skills.

The ultimate goal of this program is to develop within each student a desire for excellence and a sense of responsibility to self and a changing society. This goal will be met through:

- Core subjects meeting grade level and above expectations with rigorous academic standards;
- Skills of independence developed through research and project design;
- Creativity addressed through problem-solving activities and simulations; and
- Critical thinking infused throughout the curriculum through questioning strategies, analytical reading and writing.

Applications for the middle school program are accepted during the month of January for placement in the next academic year.

High School Services

Grades 9-12

Highly capable students in grades 9-12 who seek a more rigorous curriculum have a variety of options available to them including Honors classes, Advanced Placement classes, College in the High School and the Running Start Program. Please contact your high school counselor form more information.



“All of us do not have equal talent, but all of us should have an equal opportunity to develop our talent.”

John F. Kennedy

For further information, please contact:

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