

# Newport News Public Schools Gifted Services Program Grades 3-5



## Program Mission

The mission of the Gifted Services program is to challenge students to reach their maximum potential using higher order thinking skills and differentiated instruction in interdisciplinary units. These units emphasize problem-solving, practical applications, and a variety of strategies to meet all students' learning styles from kindergarten to grade 12. We strive to provide a rigorous academic environment specifically designed to meet the intellectual, creative, social, and emotional needs of gifted individuals within their unique culture to produce self-directed, life-long learners who will become productive citizens.

## Gifted Services Personnel

Gifted Services program teachers at the elementary school level are endorsed in gifted education or required to take in-service training and college courses in gifted education that would lead to an endorsement in gifted education within a three-year period. These dedicated professionals receive special training to gain knowledge of how the gifted child learns. Teachers also utilize a variety of educational methods to enhance the learning styles and capacity of these children.

## Gifted Services Program in Grades 3-5

Full-time gifted programs for students in third through fifth grades are housed in several elementary schools throughout the city. The gifted program is for students who have qualified through the gifted screening and identification process by demonstrating their capacity for complex processing abilities. These students need the challenge of a curriculum with high rigor and expectations that will meet the students' social, emotional, and academic needs. The gifted program requires students to perform to their ability, to think, to stretch, and to assume responsibility for their learning. The Gifted Services instructional program is designed around the learning styles and cognitive characteristics of gifted children. The gifted program provides a multidisciplinary curriculum incorporating critical thinking, problem solving, reflection, student interaction, collaboration, communication, and discussion. Opportunities are provided for research, inquiry based learning, scientific analysis, project-based learning, and literary analysis.

Students who qualify for the gifted program are grouped together in classrooms with other gifted students where they work at an accelerated pace in all core subject areas, as well as engage in additional differentiated lessons and activities. Students are expected to demonstrate respect for individual differences among peers within their class and to accept the challenge of the gifted program. Students who experience difficulty meeting the requirements of the program will be monitored closely and may be re-evaluated to determine their most appropriate educational setting.

## Gifted Site Assignment and Transportation

Students are assigned to a zoned gifted site based on their address. Transportation to the zoned gifted site is provided for all students living in Newport News. For students with an approved administrative transfer, transportation is the responsibility of the parent. Should your child's address change, please contact the Gifted Services Department.



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