

Gifted and Talented Characteristics

Although wide variations exist among the areas of giftedness, the following lists are characteristics or traits that a gifted and talented individual may possess within each area. Please keep these characteristics in mind when nominating students for gifted and talented services.

LANGUAGE ARTS	SOCIAL SCIENCE/HUMANITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive vocabulary • Keen power of observation • Good memory • Perceives abstract ideas rapidly • Ability to portray to others feelings, actions, personalities, situations • Possesses creativity and inventiveness • Has varied interests • Demonstrates an intellectual playfulness with words • Writes fluently with insight and strong personal voice • Sees relationships among apparently unrelated ideas • Reads avidly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possesses a large storehouse of information about a variety of topics • Quick mastery and recall of factual information • Rapid insight into cause-effect relationships • Ready grasp of underlying principles-quickly makes valid generalizations • Keen and alert observer • Becomes absorbed and involved in certain topics or problems • Prefers to work independently-requires little attention from teacher • Interested in many "adult" problems • Likes to organize and bring structure to things, people, and situations • Quite concerned with right/wrong, good/bad • Great deal of curiosity about many things • Generates a large number of ideas or solutions to problems and questions • Uninhibited in expressions of opinion • Keen sense of humor • Willingly tries out different media • Elaborates on ideas from other people
MATHEMATICS	SCIENCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solves problems, yet sometimes not able to explain procedures • Performs computations easily and accurately, but resists extensive calculating • Hypothesizes frequently • Works a long time on challenging problems although there may be no solution • Works easily with technology • Is preoccupied with scales, statistics, records, almanacs, globes, maps • Devises own languages, codes, number systems • Is sensitive to patterns in shapes • Ability to translate unfamiliar abstraction into a familiar form • Can translate the familiar into an abstraction • Intuitively solve seemingly difficult problems mentally • Computes answers in a non-traditional manner • Uses unusual techniques in problem solving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions critically • Visualizes mentally • Thinks critically-abstraction, conceptualization, and synthesis • Attends to details related to the task at hand • Is persistent in the pursuit of answers and solutions • Sees alternatives and offers several solutions • Makes generalizations • Ability to use resources with the intent to find answers • Ready grasp of underlying principles and quickly makes valid deductions • Keen and alert observer • Tries to understand complicated material • Reasons things out for him/herself • Sees logical/common sense answers • Is easily bored with mundane or routine • Is a self-starter-intrinsically motivated • Shows an interest in science

*Characteristics taken from "The Identification of Gifted and Talented Students" as adopted by