



Gifted and Talented/ Enrichment Information Guide

Introduction

The Paramus School District is dedicated to meeting the needs of our high achievers, and has created an environment to address our student's unique learning styles through our Gifted and Talented and Enrichment Programs.

Identification begins at the elementary level and is ongoing, by student performance, achievement test scores, and teacher recommendations. We address the needs through differentiated instruction in the classroom, and by programs developed by elementary media specialists/Enrichment teacher(s) and an Enrichment/G&T teacher at the middle school level. With the guidance and assistance of our administrators, teachers receive professional development and support in the classroom to meet the needs of identified students.

Philosophy

Our goals in Paramus is to promote innovative thinking by enhancing knowledge to improve our world through:

- Critical thinking
- Project based units with a student-driven approach
- Developing digital literacy, the ability to use information and communication technologies to find, evaluate, create and express information, requiring both cognitive and technical skills
- Curriculum-aligned or related units of study
- Real world problem-solving

Definition of Giftedness

Paramus Schools defines a gifted student as one “who possesses or demonstrates a high level of ability in one or more content areas when compared to their chronological peers in the school district and who require modifications of their educational program if they are to achieve in accordance with their capabilities.”

[New Jersey Student Learning Standards](#)

Identification for Inclusion in Program

Identification begins at the elementary level and is ongoing using multiple measures of assessment, of varying kinds, gathered at multiple points in time. Some examples might include but are not limited to: achievement test scores, ability assessments, intelligence testing, student performance or products, and teacher, student, and parent recommendation. We address the needs through differentiated instruction in the classroom, and by programs developed by elementary media specialists and an Enrichment teacher at the middle school level.

Program Overview

The Paramus Schools Enrichment Program includes units to foster and develop:

- Communication and expression of ideas
- Innovation
- Creativity
- Critical Thinking
- Problem Solving
- Engineering
- Inventing and exploring solutions for a better world
- STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, math)

Program Entrance/Exit Procedures

Elementary students in Grade 4 are not automatically enrolled in the middle school Enrichment program. Students are reevaluated using the Middle School Enrichment Matrix and will continue to be reevaluated each year with the most current data

available for eligibility.

Students may be exited from the Gifted and Talented Program if the student displays any of the following:

- * Behavior inhibiting the learning of others
- * Not meeting the requirements in the regular education content areas
- * Not performing on a level of expectation in the Enrichment Classes

A parent may send the Enrichment Teacher a request for their child to exit the Gifted and Talented/Enrichment program in writing.

Resources for Parents/Teachers

[National Association for Gifted Children | \(nagc.org\)](http://nagc.org)

[Resources – NJ Association for Gifted Children \(njagc.org\)](http://njagc.org)

[CogAT Parent Information - Google Slides](#)

[CogAT \(riverside insights.com\)](http://riversideinsights.com)

[The Gifted Child Society](#)

[Montclair University Summer Program](#)

[Applied Digital Skills](#)

[Khan Academy](#)

[Mensa for Kids](#)

[Kids Discover Online](#)

[Climate Action Project](#)

[Institute of Competition Sciences](#)

[World Book Discover](#)

[Eduporium](#)

[Wonderopolis](#)

[Code.org](#)