

ST. JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION GIFTED SERVICES



Our mission is to provide the most appropriate education for our gifted students. Programs are designed to provide appropriate challenge and optimal social-emotional interactions and growth. Services for students identified as gifted are available at all elementary, middle and high schools. Students who are gifted have learning needs that go beyond what is traditionally offered in the regular classroom. The nature of their abilities, demonstrated or latent, requires differentiated learning experiences and opportunities for them to maximize their potential. Teachers develop the depth and quality of their students' experiences while adjusting the pace to meet individual needs.

Gifted Program Services -A brief summary

St. Johns County School District has gifted programs in every school. Gifted blended/delta classes are offered in most schools grades 3-8. Some schools also have blended/delta classes in grades K-2 depending on the number of students that have been identified. (Numbers vary from school to school.) The blended/delta classes cluster a group of identified gifted students along with other students in a class with a teacher who has gifted endorsement on their teaching certificate. The teacher differentiates for the gifted students and these students have the benefit of being among a group of their intellectual peers.

Itinerant gifted consultative teachers are available for every school and offer consultative services to all of our gifted students and/or their teachers. All high school gifted students grades 9-12 are served in this consultative model. Through these gifted resource services, social and emotional skills for the K-12 gifted individuals are explored.

Note: In St. Johns County a mass screening is conducted for all second graders, so most of the identifications take place during that year. Screening for all other grades may be requested through the school counselor.

GIFTED PARENT ADVISORY MEETINGS

The Gifted Parent Advisory Council meets four times per year to inform the school district about ways in which we can improve our efforts in serving our gifted students. Parents of K-12 gifted students from throughout the district are encouraged to come to all of the meetings.

GIFTED ELIGIBILITY

- There are many ways people may be considered gifted: academically, creatively, intellectually, socially, physically (athletes, dancers, etc.), gifted in the fine arts, and there are probably others. Individuals may be gifted in one or more categories. Florida's definition **only** identifies the intellectually gifted.
- Eligibility is based on three criteria: (1) Intellectual potential measured at two standard deviations above the mean on an individually administered psychological assessment (a full-scale IQ at 97%tile or higher); (2) Exhibiting a majority of gifted characteristics as measured on a standard scale or checklist; and (3) Need for the program. These three criteria are consistent across the State of Florida.

Please direct questions to:

Helen DiMare,
Gifted Program Specialist

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or

904-547-7692

Elementary School Gifted Services

St. Johns County elementary schools are a wonderful place for gifted students.

A wide variety of gifted services are available to best meet the needs of each student, classroom, and school. Classroom teachers who are gifted endorsed work hard to differentiate for gifted students based on abilities, interest and needs.

In addition to what the classroom teacher provides, every school is also staffed with a gifted itinerant teacher who provides resources and consultative services for students, parents, and teachers.

Social emotional lessons focus on topics ranging from self-esteem to perseverance in whole group, small group, or one-on-one settings. These lessons frequently include literacy activities, logical thinking puzzles, and STEM challenges. Itinerant gifted teachers provide for the gifted students so that their social, emotional, and academic needs are met. If you have any questions about services available at your child's elementary school, please contact your child's gifted itinerant teacher or classroom teacher.



Middle School Gifted Services

At each of our middle schools, gifted students benefit from a differentiated classroom learning experience and are served by gifted endorsed teachers in their subject area classes. The specific makeup of these blended classrooms varies from school to school based on the number of identified students and the individual schools needs and resources. Additionally, Itinerant gifted teachers work with students and teachers in a variety of ways at all of our district middle schools to help meet the needs of each gifted learner.

Middle school students will experience a variety of different services from differentiation in core classes, to one-on-one consultations, parent/teacher conference support, quarterly meetings, pull-out services during elective courses and more. Itinerant teachers work with gifted endorsed teachers to consult on curriculum needs, Educational Plans (EP) and social emotional concerns. The program continues to grow and evolve as the needs of students are evaluated at each school.

HIGH SCHOOL Gifted Services

Services for high school students are designed to support them in setting and pursuing personal, academic and career goals. High school students' needs are met through the *consultation service delivery model*. This allows teachers of the gifted and general education teachers to collaborate to ensure that the gifted student succeeds in accomplishing their gifted goals as outlined in their Educational Plan (EP).

Gifted itinerant consultative teachers work with students individually as well as in small groups on social/emotional lessons. They provide one-on-one consultation and focus on listening, problem solving, and celebrating success. They monitor progress of student achievement and work to develop strategies to help students advocate for them-selves. Additionally, they work with school counselors to address issues with stress management and anxiety when needed. Students are provided opportunities to participate in small group activities that lead to discussions, self-awareness, and thinking about their future. Students work on goal setting and action plans, time management, and building resumes in preparation for college and careers. Most importantly, the door is always open for students!

PARENT RESOURCES

SJCSD ESE HOMEPAGE <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/ese/>

INFO/LINKS: <https://teachers.stjohns.k12.fl.us/racano-j/whats-news/1599-2/>

<https://teachers.stjohns.k12.fl.us/racano-j/whats-news/>
