


Parent Information Session

What giftedness is and isn't
Spring 2023

A dark blue diagonal graphic that starts from the bottom left corner and extends towards the top right corner, covering the lower half of the slide.

What does it mean to be gifted?

National Association of Gifted Children defines giftedness as “students with gifts and talents perform—or have the capability to perform—at higher levels compared to others of the same age, experience, and environment in one or more domains.”

Winchester Public Schools defines gifted students as “those who, because of their superior potential, require differentiated instruction in order to meet their specific educational needs.”

Asynchronous Development

Asynchrony is the term used to describe the mismatch between cognitive, emotional, and physical development of gifted individuals. Gifted children develop unevenly across skill levels. Often, intellectual skills are quite advanced, but fine motor skills are lagging.

Gifted does not equal perfect.

You're smarter
than the other
children in your
class.

Gifted is a word given to kids who have different learning needs. It sounds like teacher speak, but it is an accurate way of confirming and explaining why your child needs enriched/ differentiated instruction.

Just like some people are taller or shorter than others, or more or less athletic, some people need a different approach in school to meet their learning needs.

It's because you're gifted.

Gifted is just a word. It doesn't mean someone is better than someone else. People felt that it was a “gift” to be able to read well or solve problems quickly or paint beautifully. People might feel the same way about kids who can run really fast or make friends easily. It does not make them better or more special than anyone else.

You're in the top 3
percent of your
class.

You were found to be “gifted”
because of some tests you took.
We asked the school to give you
these tests because we wondered
if you needed more challenge.
We love you no matter what,
gifted or not. You are more than a
score. We want to make sure you
receive instruction that is just
right for you in school.

You have to beat
everyone else –
show them how
gifted you are!

Giftedness is something that is a part of you, just like your eye color or height. Gifted does not mean that you don't have to work hard or that you won't make mistakes. It is always there and gives you some great choices to do some really creative and interesting things. If you work hard, you can achieve a lot.

Focus on the growth

No trees touch the sky.

– German proverb

Everyone you will ever meet knows something you don't.

– Bill Nye

Social Emotional Challenges

- intensity/ heightened awareness
- anxiety
- perfectionism
- stress
- issues with peer relationships
- concerns with identity and fitting in

Counteracting the challenges of being gifted

Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG) suggests:

- **Embrace experimentation:** joy of trying new things without the expectation that it is going to turn out perfectly
- **Set realistic goals:** focus on the process of learning rather than the product or outcome
- **Learn from failure:** teaching that failure leads to success leads to more resilient adults
- **Seek out a supportive environment:** children need support at home, but they also need at least one caring adult whom they trust to help them navigate both failure and success

Continuum of gifted services offered by WPS

- K-2 Talent Development lesson for ALL students
- Cluster grouping for gifted students in grades 3 through 8
- Differentiated instruction for grades 3 through 8
- Pull out services for 3rd and 4th grade students
- Developing: PBL instruction for 5th and 6th grade students

Opportunities for gifted students

- [W&M Summer enrichment program](#)
- [BREGS](#)
- [MVGS](#)
- [Summer Residential Governor's Schools](#)

Questions?
Concerns?
Suggestions?

Sara K. Gardner
Gifted Specialist
cell (540) 313-5062
desk (540) 678-3962 x15153