

Overview of Rochester Public Schools Office of Student Advancement (Gifted Services)

(Two-page document updated 10-17-2017)

RPS strives to challenge learners at all grade levels. The Office of Student Advancement uses test scores, teacher observations, and student portfolios to identify students for gifted services. As a matter of equity, the scores of **all** students in grades 2-5 are reviewed each spring to identify students for services for the following year. Secondary students self-select classes or qualify for advanced programming through test scores or via portfolio. Each school has a part-time gifted specialist available to answer any questions you may have.

RPS has a variety of enrichment and advancement opportunities for students including the following:

Elementary School

- PETS (Primary Education Thinking Skills) lessons for all students in first grade. These classes help students develop critical thinking and problem solving skills at an early age.
- Pull-out and co-taught classes taught by gifted specialists in language arts/social studies and math/science for identified students in grades 3-5: identification criteria are listed later in this document.
- Total School Cluster Grouping and Differentiation at Bamber Valley, Gibbs, and Franklin in cooperation with Purdue University and funded by a Federal Javits grant

Middle School

- RAMP (Rochester Accelerated Math Program) classes
- Honors classes in science, social studies, and English
- Enrichment opportunities
- The Highly Gifted Program at Friedell and Kellogg Middle Schools for students identified as highly gifted

High School

(See the complete Course Registration Guide at www.Rochester.K12.mn.us >Departments>Curriculum & Instruction>E-12 Curriculum>High School Registration Guide.)

- Honors classes and honors option classes: students can earn an honors diploma.
- AP (Advanced Placement) classes: these classes are rich in content. At the conclusion of the class, students can opt to take the AP exam to earn college credits.
- College in the Schools classes: students can earn University of Minnesota college credits at their high schools.
- Mentorships through the high school gifted specialist: students work with a mentor in the community in a field of their choice.
- Independent study: students arrange to investigate a subject in depth under the supervision of a high school teacher
- Credit By Assessment: students can get credits for prior learning by testing out of courses.
- PSEO classes (Post-Secondary Enrollment Option): students earn high school and college credits simultaneously.
- CTECH (Career and Technical Education Center at Heinz): Students take classes in health and biomedical sciences; engineering; information technology, construction; agriculture; manufacturing; and hospitality. These can be for career exploration, college prep, or certification.

- World Language Proficiency Certificate: Students who achieve oral and written communicative competence in more than one language, either by being a native speaker or by taking classes, can earn a certificate. Please contact a high school counselor and see MN Statute 120B.022 to learn how.

Additional Elementary Notes:

How are children identified for elementary gifted services?

Criteria for identification for elementary gifted services in reading or math:

Pathway 1) CogAT score of 125 plus an NWEA score at or above the 80th percentile

Pathway 2) CogAT score of 116 and an NWEA score at or above the 95th percentile

Pathway 3) Two NWEA scores at or above the 95th percentile within the past year

Pathway 4) A portfolio assessment

How often does Gifted Services review student scores?

Scores are reviewed annually; parents are welcome to contact the teacher or gifted specialist at their schools for more information. Parents of students new to the district should contact the school's gifted specialist.

How can I get information about the portfolio process?

Contact the the gifted specialist at your elementary school.

Any student in grades 5, 6, or 7 who wishes to complete a portfolio to be considered for the highly gifted program at Friedell should contact Monica Bowler at

mobowler@rochester.k12.mn.us or 507-328-4275

Is there an Early Entrance to Kindergarten and Grade/Subject acceleration process?

Yes. Students need to be age 5 on or before September 1 to enter kindergarten. If you are interested in how students qualify for early entrance, contact

Monica Bowler at mobowler@rochester.k12.mn.us or 507-328-4275

Website for Office of Student Advancement:

http://www.rochester.k12.mn.us/departments/curriculum_instruction/office_of_student_advancement_gifted_services/