

## **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](http://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 80<sup>th</sup> percentile

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

Pathway 3) Two NWEA scores at or above the 95<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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/](http://www.rochester.k12.mn.us/departments/curriculum_instruction/office_of_student_advancement_gifted_services/)