

Pemberton Township School District

**Student/Parent Handbook
Gifted & Talented Program
Secondary**



“Pursuing excellence, one child at a time.”

Pemberton, New Jersey

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Educational Philosophy

The Pemberton Township Board of Education believes that education is best achieved when students become involved in experiences meaningful to their lives in today's world. We believe the educational process should develop a feeling of self-worth and accomplishment.

We believe that equal educational opportunity is the right of all children regardless of race, creed, color, or national origin and that all laws to this end should be followed promptly and effectively.

We further believe education should develop habits, attitudes, understanding, and skills necessary for a productive, satisfying life in a civilized society. Each child should be helped to understand the duties and privileges of responsible citizenship as it relates to him or her as an individual and to the world community. We recognize the vast changes brought by increasing technology, population, and urbanization. We request the advice and support of the community's citizens and the professional staff as we endeavor to develop the attitudes and abilities demanded in this rapidly changing world.

Gifted & Talented Staff

Deana Chiarella & Marie Germano, Supervisors of GATE program

PTS Gifted and Talented Program Overview

Mission

The mission of the Gifted and Talented Program is to provide challenging and engaging learning experiences and opportunities for growth that enable students with high potential, talent, and exceptional capacity to develop their potential.

Purpose

Pemberton Township School District encourages gifted students to excel through the Gifted and Talented Program. The purpose of the program is to make available challenging content matter, provide opportunities for the gifted learner to reach his/her potential, and to nurture self-esteem and confidence in special students. According to the US Department of Education, a student who is gifted and talented is: one who gives evidence of high-performance capability in areas such as intellectual, creative, artistic, or leadership capacity or in specific academic fields and who requires services or activities not ordinarily provided by the school in order to develop such capabilities fully.

The purpose of the Gifted and Talented Program is to develop critical thinkers. To achieve this, we have developed a program that expands on subject areas in the regular classroom curriculum. Problem-solving and decision-making skills are incorporated into a variety of curriculum experiences. Students will be required to utilize the highest-level thinking

skills in analysis, synthesis, evaluation, and application. Research indicates that achievement rates are higher when students are more actively involved in the learning process. Gifted and Talented students will be exposed to various learning modes emphasizing: reading/research, exploration, instruction/clarification and analysis of content, guided group discussions, practice by demonstration, and technology.

Goals

The Gifted and Talented program will:

- ❖ increase opportunity for academic growth
- ❖ provide the opportunity to pursue independent research
- ❖ develop critical thinking skills
- ❖ allow the ability and desire for creative self-expression
- ❖ help the student develop an understanding of his/her worth, abilities, potentials, and limitations
- ❖ provide instruction that bears a meaningful relationship to the needs and interests of the student
- ❖ promote enjoyment of the process of learning and the acquisition of skills necessary for a lifetime of continuous learning and adaptations to change

Program Eligibility

In the Pemberton Township Schools, efforts are made to identify gifted and talented students in grades six through twelve and to provide enrichment classes and acceleration in appropriate areas. Student eligibility for Pemberton Township Schools' Gifted and Talented Program is determined through the use of multiple criteria. Students must demonstrate the potential for exceptional performance and advanced academic ability.

Identification Process

Multiple Measures are used to identify Gifted and Talented Students. These include, but are not limited to:

Grades 6-8:

- HOPE Teacher Rating Scale/Teacher Recommendation
- NWEA MAP Scores 85th Percentile or higher
- Report Card
- NJSLA score of 775 or higher
- Teacher Recommendation

Grades 9-12

- NWEA MAP Scores 85th Percentile or higher
- Report Card
- AP Potential Report
- Teacher Recommendation

Appeal Process

Parents, teachers, and/or administration that challenge the identification process with warranted concerns may request that the individual child be re-tested using a Cognitive Skills Test. The re-test will be administered by the gifted and talented teacher and hand scored by a certified teacher and/or administration. Students that are ineligible due to academic grades may be re-evaluated, upon request, at the end of each marking period.

Implementation

Grades Six through Eight

All students in grades 6-8 receive a 40-minute enrichment period every other day for half of the school year.

Program Format:

- Students will participate in Project/Problem Based Learning, contingent on student interest and giftedness, with the teacher acting as the facilitator.

- All units of study will be based on various Next Generation Science Standards, National Association for Gifted Children Standards, and the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in various subject areas.
- Students will demonstrate their understanding of selected topics through any of the following assessments: writing reports, completed projects, portfolios, presentations, and /or teacher conferencing.

Continuation in Program after Selection

Students must meet each challenge to the best of their ability. They must maintain their academic standing by earning A's and B's in all subject areas. Students receiving anything lower than a B in a subject area will be placed on probation for one marking period. Any student who fails to maintain grade averages for two consecutive marking periods will not be permitted to continue in the Gifted and Talented program. Gifted and Talented students on probation or removed from the program will be reviewed at the end of the marking period for reinstatement. Gifted and talented students must maintain good conduct according to the Student Discipline Code of Conduct.

Grades Nine through Twelve

Students may enroll in various academic offerings ranging from CollegeBoard Advanced Placement (AP) courses, dual-enrollment courses through RCBC College Acceleration Program (CAP), and those courses within specialized career academies.

Character Education

Character Education is an instructional approach that is used to enhance learning and make school more meaningful for students. Today, the vast majority of Americans share a respect for fundamental traits of character: honesty, compassion, justice, courage, and perseverance. Yet, in today's world, all children face great uncertainties in a complex and sometimes troubled society. These traits are not always readily apparent and easy to grasp or learn. Therefore, our challenge is to provide youth with the self-esteem, stamina, and support they need to survive, be successful, and develop into strong, competent, caring, and responsible citizens.

GATE Program
Student/Parent Acknowledgement of Conduct Expectations:

I, _____, (student) understand that in order to continue in the GATE program for Pemberton Township Schools, I am expected to uphold all school and classroom rules. I will abide by all standards in the student code of conduct.

Student Signature

Date

I, _____, (parent/guardian) understand that in order for my child to continue in the GATE program for Pemberton Township Schools, He/She is expected to uphold all school and classroom rules. He/She will be expected to abide by all standards in the student code of conduct.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date