

## Office of Gifted and Talented Education

### Twice Exceptional (2E)

The Gifted and Talented staff are advocates for the 2E learner. We recognize their needs and strive to balance their exceptionalities (ADHD/Aspergers/Autism and being gifted). We collaborate with Special Education staff, classroom teachers, and other support personnel.

### Acceleration

Some students far exceed the academic achievement level of their age peers, and the pace of instruction does not match the students' ability levels. We work to provide students a learning environment that challenges each student appropriately. The following are options we support and oversee:

- Differentiated Educational Plan (DEP)
- Subject acceleration
- Grade-level acceleration
- High School placement
- Distance Learning

### Intellectually Gifted Students

We identify intellectually gifted students (130 and above IQ) through collaboration with our Division of Psychological Services. Assessment results are used to ensure appropriate curriculum, and individualized academic accommodations are provided for these students.

“Together We Make a Difference”



## Gifted and Talented Facilitators

Each of our middle schools has a certified teacher assigned the role of gifted and talented facilitator. All facilitators have advanced training in gifted education, including masters degrees and/or endorsements in Gifted Education.

### Areas of Giftedness

In conjunction with the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) and the Nebraska State Education Rules and Policies, OPS recognizes five areas of giftedness:

- Intellectual (IQ)
- Academic Achievement
- Creativity
- Leadership
- Visual/Performing Arts

*Each school provides coursework, events, clubs and opportunities in each area.*

Omaha Public Schools  
Curriculum Instruction  
and Assessment

Gifted and Talented  
Education

402-557-2660

Fax: 402-557-2674

Deanna Moisset, Supervisor  
402-557-2453



For more information  
about the Office of Gifted and  
Talented Education,  
visit [district.ops.org/gifted](http://district.ops.org/gifted).

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# Middle Level Gifted and Talented Education

in the Omaha Public Schools

Where choices  
open minds.



## Office of Gifted and Talented Education Mission

The staff of the Office of Gifted and Talented Education strives to identify gifted and exceptionally talented students within the Omaha Public Schools, nurture their social/emotional development and enhance their curriculum experience so that these unique individuals may reach their fullest potential.

## Office of Gifted and Talented Education Beliefs

*We believe our students...*

- are found in the areas of intellectual ability, academics, creativity, performing/visual arts, and leadership.
- are found in all cultures.
- include students with learning disabilities (twice-exceptional [2E]).

*Gifted and Talented students have the right to...*

- ... learn something new every day
- ... not be gifted in everything
- ... feel proud of their accomplishments
- ... be passionate about their talents
- ... be educated about their abilities and talents
- ... interact with like ability peers
- ... be stimulated with rigorous and challenging instruction

## Transition to Middle School

With independence comes choice both within the classroom and beyond. Behind classroom doors, teachers differentiate **content, process, and product** based on academic readiness as well as learning style or interest.

Placement in advanced classes (per course) is determined by standardized assessments, classroom performance and other established criteria.

Students are expected to develop **self-discipline** by meeting deadlines, asking questions, and acquiring organizational and study skills as they strive to become both independent and successful at the middle level and beyond.

Beyond the classroom, students have opportunities to be challenged through:

- Various special events ( sponsored by the Office of Gifted and Talented) as well as those unique to each middle school
- Contests/Competitions – within our district and beyond
- Clubs unique to each middle school

**To learn more about school offerings, visit each school's website**

## Gifted and Talented Services

Students are rarely “pulled” from the classroom for specialized instruction; instead, advanced learning takes place within the classroom, after school and at home. The **Gifted and Talented Facilitator** plays a key role in supporting the classroom teachers to differentiate instruction to meet the unique needs of the high ability learner and talented student.

## Curriculum

Differentiation is the foundation for student success. Teachers adapt the curriculum and instruction to address the needs of all learners. By using pre-assessments, the classroom teachers identify their students' ability and readiness levels.

Modifications consist of adjusting the pace of instruction and adding rigor and choice. **RIGOR** is added to curriculum by increasing:

- **BREADTH** (looking at the discipline from a broader viewpoint),
- **DEPTH** (allowing students to dig deeper into a current area of study),
- **COMPLEXITY** (broadening students understanding of an area of study by making relationships and associations between and across disciplines).

## Gifted and Talented Events

Each middle school offers unique opportunities based on the interests and talents of its students. The following events are sponsored by **The Office of Gifted and Talented**:

- Book Blasters Reading Competition
- Leadership Teams
- The Scholars
- Think Tank (formerly Future Probe)
- Poetry Slams
- TIP (Talented Identification Program)
- Academic Quiz Bowl
- Pentathlon (USAD)