

ELEMENTARY

- Endorsed Gifted Resource Teacher on staff in every elementary school
- K-2 primary grades service model includes response lessons for all students; enrichment group service for identified students
- Grades 3-5 gifted service model includes pullout, reading and math extensions, classroom differentiation
- Universal screenings to provide applicant pool for identification in Kindergarten and 2nd grade
- Resource and differentiation services provided for classroom instruction
- Summer Enrichment Program
- Showcase of Excellence



MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Endorsed Gifted Resource Teacher on staff in every middle school
- Service model includes pullout and inclusion
- Advanced English and Advanced Science available in 8th grade
- Algebra, geometry and world language courses for high school credit
- Differentiated services provided for classroom instruction
- Summer Enrichment Program
- Fredericksburg Regional Governor's School
- Showcase of Excellence

HIGH SCHOOL

- Gifted Coordinator on staff in each high school
- The Commonwealth Governor's School
- Advanced courses, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and Dual Enrollment available
- Independent Study Course and Mentor Apprenticeship Program
- Career and Technical Education
- Guidance services
- Summer Residential Governor's Schools
- Fredericksburg Regional Governor's School
- Showcase of Excellence



For additional information on the gifted program, please contact the Gifted Resource Teacher at your child's school or visit our website at: www.spotsylvania.k12.va.us.

Gifted Services



SPOTSYLVANIA
COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



OUR PHILOSOPHY

Spotsylvania County Schools is committed to excellence in education for all students. All students are provided the opportunity to be academically challenged according to differences in physical, mental, emotional, and social growth. Students of all cultural and socio-economic backgrounds are considered for participation in the gifted program, with multiple criteria used to select students.

OUR MISSION

It is the mission of Spotsylvania County Schools to provide a gifted program that will challenge identified students to achieve excellence through enriched and innovative instruction.

In order to achieve this mission we will:

- Provide a quality and challenging curriculum
- Recruit and maintain a staff trained in gifted education
- In-service classroom teachers on how to differentiate instruction to meet the needs of gifted students

SERVICES

Identified gifted students will be cluster grouped in the regular classroom with a teacher who has received training in gifted education and differentiation strategies.

Grade level services will be provided for identified students (grades K-8) with innovative and challenging curricula that build on the Standards of Learning and include convergent, divergent, visual spatial, evaluative thinking, as well as research, writing, and affective skills.

Gifted learners will work in small groups with their intellectual and academic peers, under the guidance of teachers trained in gifted education, so they can experience a stimulating learning environment and demonstrate the responsibilities of cooperation, self-discipline, and self-direction within the confines of the curricula.

IS MY CHILD GIFTED?

The gifted child:

- Demonstrates independence, problem solving strategies, risk taking, and an attraction to the complex and abstract
- Shows a passion for learning and a willingness to follow through with advanced tasks
- Is intrinsically motivated to achieve
- Has talents and abilities that significantly differ from their peers to such a degree that differentiated educational opportunities must be provided to develop their abilities

Consistent demonstration of many, but not necessarily all of these behaviors, indicates a strong possibility of giftedness.

HOW IS POTENTIAL ASSESSED?

Each referred student will be screened for identification through:

- Aptitude tests which may include the Naglieri Nonverbal Aptitude Test, Otis-Lennon School Ability Test, or Cognitive Abilities Test
- Achievement tests which may include the Stanford Achievement Test or Standards of Learning
- Current or previous grades
- An assessment of student work submitted in a portfolio
- Rating scales completed by parents and teachers
- A record of observation of in-class behaviors is also available

IDENTIFICATION PROCEDURES

Independent sources of information are used to create a pool of candidates. Any one of the following sources of information places a student in the screening pool. Referrals can be made by:

- Parent or community members
- Student through self-nomination or peer nomination
- Professional staff

Forms are available from the Gifted Resource Teacher

TWICE EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS

A Twice Exceptional learner has been identified both with a disability and as gifted. In addition to displaying typical gifted characteristics, these students may also demonstrate their own unique traits.

Our goal for potential Twice Exceptional students is to:

- identify and provide services to students with disabilities who may not traditionally be considered for gifted programs.
- nurture high academic potential in identified twice exceptional students by providing them with the skills for success for the future.
- collaborate with Special Education staff, classroom teacher, and other advocates to meet the specific needs of the twice exceptional student.

Prior to testing, the Twice Exceptional staff will meet to review a student's specific needs and accommodations. The goal of this meeting is to determine the best environment, procedures for testing, and specific testing materials to be used.

Once the testing process has been completed, the data will be reviewed by a committee of gifted resource teachers as well as a committee established at the school level. However, the final placement decision is made with the student's IEP or 504 team.

