



Gifted and Talented Education

What is Gifted and Talented Education?

The Gifted and Talented program provides a variety of opportunities for children with exceptional intellectual and creative ability. Through specially designed activities and enrichment experiences, students extend their learning, develop their unique potential, enhance their self-concept, and become life-long, independent learners. Because the state of Pennsylvania considers this a “Special Education” program, identified students are given a GIEP—Gifted Individualized Education Plan. At PPS, we are committed to meaningful education for every student, and design each GIEP to meet the intellectual and academic needs of every gifted student.

Most gifted students in grades K–8 are transported to the Pittsburgh Gifted Center at Greenway once a week for enriched and accelerated learning activities. Gifted students who attend Dilworth or Grandview receive differentiated, enriched and accelerated instruction at their home school.



In Pennsylvania, mentally gifted is defined as “students demonstrating outstanding intellectual and creative ability, the development of which requires specially designed programs or support services, or both, not ordinarily provided in the regular education program.”

Who is Eligible?

Is your child performing academically a year or more above grade level? Does he or she provide creative and/or original thoughts when problem solving? Is your child committed to long-term learning tasks? Then it’s time to talk with the school principal or counselor about Gifted Education. The identification process takes several months, and includes a wide range of evaluations, including teacher recommendations, a student-created portfolio, psychologist evaluation, a checklist of giftedness indicators and/or standardized test results.

How Do You Get Your Child Tested?

A parent or a teacher may initiate the process of testing a child for the Gifted program. In either case, parents must sign a Permission to Evaluate form. If you would like to request a Permission to Evaluate (PTE) form please contact your child’s school counselor or social worker.

After you return this form, the school team will begin to gather information about your child and develop a Gifted Written Report (GWR). Parents and the school team will meet to review the GWR and recommend whether or not your child would benefit from specially designed instruction. This will take place within 60 days of your signed Permission to Evaluate form. If gifted services are recommended, the school team will write a GIEP for your child within the next 30 days. You will receive a Notice of Recommended Assignment (NORA) that explains the gifted services your child will receive. You must sign the NORA document before gifted programming can begin.

Permission to Evaluate Forms

A parent or a teacher may initiate the process of testing a child for the Gifted program. In either case, parents must sign a Permission to Evaluate form.

Need to request a form or have a question? If your child currently attends the Pittsburgh Public Schools, please contact your school counselor.

if your child does not attend the Pittsburgh Public Schools but lives within the City of Pittsburgh, please contact a Gifted Liaison below based your child’s current grade.

Gifted Liaisons Grades K–4

Barb Bradley: 412-529-3028

Grades 5–8

Amy Primm: 412-529-3037

Grades 9–12

Francine Rvenell: 412-529-3021


**Expect
great
things.**

 **Pittsburgh
Public Schools**



CAS Honors Program for High School Students

The Centers for Advanced Study (CAS) offer high-level, enriched courses for gifted and talented high school students. These courses involve a deep investigation of topics that are of interest to the student as well as a collaborative long-term project. CAS courses carry an additional .5 weight towards a student's GPA.

Non-gifted students can apply for CAS by completing a CAS application. Applications open in December and are downloadable from the Gifted and Talented website, or students can request an application from their counselor. To be eligible for CAS student must have a 3.0 overall GPA, 90% attendance, and proficient/advanced standardized test scores.

Anyone can Enroll in AP Courses

AP courses are nationally recognized college-level courses, which carry an additional full credit (1.0) towards a student's GPA, and usually are intended for juniors and seniors. There are three major benefits for enrolling in AP courses. They are:

- Students become more attractive candidates to colleges. By taking the most rigorous courses available, they display their commitment to academic excellence.
- Students are better prepared for college. They learn to manage an intense curriculum and demanding workload in a tight timeframe.
- Students may earn college credit and save money. Many colleges and universities offer college credit and/or advanced placement if a student scores a 3, 4, or 5 on the AP exam.

Free Support for AP Coursework

PPS offers a variety of supports for students enrolled in AP courses. The AP Check Points is a series of Saturday workshops that occur during the winter months that are designed to help students succeed on the AP exams. Another AP support offered is the AP Review Sessions, offered in April. AP Review Sessions offer multiple AP courses for review. Each week in April, students review a section of the AP exam in preparation of the exams in May, There is no charge for AP support classes.

Para asistencia con este documento en español, por favor llame a la línea nueve al 412-529-6463 y seleccione la opción #1.

यो दस्तावेज सम्बन्धी सहयोगको नम्रिती कृपया नाइन लाइन नम्बर (४१२)५२९-६४६ मा फोन गरी अंक # २ चुनुनु होला।

Kwa msaada kwa nyaraka(document) hii katika Swahili , tafadhali piga msitari wa tisa 412-529-6463 kisha chaguwe uchaguzi la #3.

=如需获得本文件的中文帮助，请拨打电话412-529-6463致电九号线，并选择选项 #4

حصول على المساعدة باللغة العربية ، إضغطوا على #5

Чтобы получить помощь по этому документу на русском языке, пожалуйста позвоните на Девятую Линию 412-529-6463 и нажмите #8.

Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs, activities or employment and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries may be directed to the Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Title IX Coordinator or the Section 504/ADA Title II Coordinator at 341 S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, 412-529-3950, TitleIXCoordinator@pghschools.org or 412.529.HELP (4357).



Attention 8th and 9th grade parents! Applications for CAS programs are accepted between December and February. Prior year's PSSA and Keystone scores are included in the CAS criteria. If students do not score proficient or advanced, students can supplement the scores with district level assessments.



If you'd like to have your child evaluated for Gifted Education, it's best to wait at least six weeks after the start of the school year because teacher input is highly valued during this process.

Need more information?

Contact the Gifted and Talented Office at 412-529-3082 or 412-529-3506 or you can visit pghschools.org/giftedandtalented.

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