

TAG Parent Information Night

Tuesday, November 10, 2009

From 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

In the Kathy Caraway Library

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If you would like information about whether or not to have a child tested, referral procedures, or testing for the Talented and Gifted Program please plan on attending this meeting.

Referral forms for RRISD Programs for Talented and Gifted Students will be available on the RRISD web site during the referral window: **November 16 – December 4, 2009.**

RRISD provides programs for students who have been identified as talented and gifted (TAG). These students have significantly advanced general intellectual abilities and/or specific subject matter aptitude in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Services are available in Kindergarten through grade 12.

In grades K-2, services will be based on the needs of the individual student. These services may occur in the regular classroom or in the TAG resource room, and will include independent study opportunities. In grades 3-5, students are usually grouped for academic classes in language arts and mathematics taught by the campus TAG specialist, but delivery methods of services may vary based on campus and student needs.

In grades 6-8, TAG courses are available using curriculum designed specifically to meet the special needs of gifted students with emphasis on modifications in content taught, processes used for learning, and student products, students in these courses are required to complete independent as well as guided research.

In grades 9-12, programs are provided for students who demonstrate talent in academic areas. The programs are designed for those students who wish to delve into the disciplines in more depth and expand their understandings at a faster pace. The structure of the classroom encourages students to be more of in the direction of their learning and to approach their studies as though they were professionals in the field. In addition, TAG high school students may be interested in several programs including pre-AP, AP, and IB (International Baccalaureate), which offer classes in language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, foreign language, art, music, and computer science.

Gifted/talented individuals frequently possess one or more of the following characteristics:

Verbal Proficiency

- a. Large vocabulary
- b. Facility of expression
- c. Breadth of information

Power of Abstraction

- a. Interest in inductive learning and problem solving
- b. High level of conceptualization
- c. Pleasure in intellectual activity

Intellectual Curiosity

- a. Interest in a wide range of things
- b. Willingness for complexity
- c. Persistent pursuit of goals

Retentiveness/Power of Concentration

- a. Intense attention
- b. Retains and uses information
- c. Long attention span

Independence/Goal Directed

- a. Self-initiated student
- b. Pursues individual interests
- c. Seeks direction

Power of Critical Thinking

- a. Self-criticism
- b. Skepticism
- c. Adept in analyzing strengths and weaknesses

Sensitivity/Intuitiveness

- a. High level of awareness
- b. Keenly observant
- c. Emotional depth

Potential for Creativity

- a. Inventiveness
- b. Liking for new ways of doing things
- c. Interest in brainstorming, freewheeling

Versatility/Virtuosity

- a. Diversity of interests and abilities
- b. Many hobbies
- c. Proficiency in art forms such as music and drawing

(Compiled and written by Michael Saylor, Ph. D., Published by The Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented, Raising Champions: A Parent's Guide for Nurturing Their Gifted Children (3), (1994)

If you know of a student who is not currently identified as gifted/talented and frequently behaves in the ways just described, you may want to refer him/her for the RRISD TAG Program. Completed referral forms must be submitted to the school office no later than December 4, 2009.

Referral does not assure placement in the TAG Program(s). Referral does assure consideration for the TAG Program(s). Referred students who qualify for the TAG Program will begin services the following school year.