

High Ability Plan
South Newton School Corporation
Kentland, Indiana
Tansey Mulligan, High Ability Coordinator

District Philosophy and Belief Statement about Giftedness

The South Newton School Corporation is dedicated to a program that both recognizes and embraces the individual difference in students. In order to fulfill this commitment, educators of this corporation are responsible for insuring that the needs of gifted and talented learners are met.

Gifted and talented students demonstrate many academic behaviors. They learn rapidly and easily, usually read above grade level, display strong verbal and vocabulary skills, possess inquiring and perceptive minds, have diverse sets of outside interests, and show greater ability to think analytically and abstractly when compared to students of the same age, experience, or environment. Consequently, South Newton Schools must provide a differentiated K-12 curriculum that will not only support and nurture these abilities, but will also create a climate that will foster perpetual learning and engage these students, enhancing them as learners and productive members of their communities.

Therefore, we are committed to providing quality curriculum and instruction which will engage and challenge all gifted and talented students so that they may reach the highest level of achievement consistent with their ability. Thus, we believe we must provide programs designed to help meet the emotional, social, educational, and career needs of gifted and talented students, encouraging them to develop their unique talents and to maximize their potential.

District Definition of High Ability Student

The South Newton School Corporation concurs with the following definitions of giftedness as stated by the Indiana Department of Education:

A High Ability-General Intellectual student (G/T), High Ability Language Arts student (L-HA), and High Ability Mathematics student (M-HA) performs at, or shows the potential for performing at an outstanding level of accomplishment when compared to other students of the same age, experience, or environment and whose educational needs and/or individual academic growth cannot be met through grade level curriculum.

Additionally, we believe these qualities are found in students from all ethnic/cultural groups and from all economic levels within our corporation.

Multifaceted Student Assessment Plan

Primary Grades K-2

Aptitude Screener - KBIT 2
Aptitude Test - CogAT 7
Achievement Measure - Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark

Intermediate Grades 3-5

Aptitude Test - CogAT 7
Achievement Measure - Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark
- Acuity
- ISTEP

Middle School Grades 6 -8

PSAT scores will be used as indicators of high ability characteristics, and the AP Potential tool will help us identify students (based on PSAT scores) who would typically be successful in AP courses
Scholastic Math Index (SMI)
Scholastic Reading Index (SRI)

Curriculum and Instructional Strategies Plan

Primary Grades K-2:

Differentiation is encouraged in all grade levels
High ability readers will be in a pull out literacy group as well as use Moby Max
Ability grouping for Math in 2nd grade
Moby Max and IXL can be used by our high ability math students

Intermediate Grades 3-5:

Differentiation is encouraged in all grade levels
Ability grouping for Math
High ability readers will be in a pull out literacy group, SNSI
Moby Max and IXL can be used by high ability math and language arts students

Middle School

Acceleration in math with the opportunity to take Algebra I for credit
Challenge Language Arts 7/8
Cluster grouping in rotation classes: STEM 6 & 7, Technology 8, & Art 6, 7, & 8
Advanced Art for students gifted in artistic ability
Opportunity to take Introduction to Engineering Design (a Project Lead the Way course) in 8th grade (concurrent with Algebra I).

High School

Opportunity to take Advanced Placement Courses

Dual credit courses

Opportunity to enroll in college courses on nearby campuses

After School Enrichment Grades K-12

Battle of the Books- Elementary grades 3-5, Middle School

Math Bowl- Elementary grades 4 & 5

Science Bowl- Elementary grades 4 & 5

Spell Bowl- Elementary grades 4 & 5, Middle School

Science Olympiad grades 6 - 12

Midwest Math Contest grades 8 - 12

Counseling Plan

The counselors are available to meet with students and parents to discuss the specific needs of their high ability children. The elementary counselor meets with students on an as-needed basis. The middle school counselor conducts small groups designed for gifted students. The high school counselor works closely with high ability students in planning their academic program and future.

Systemic Program Assessment Plan

The Broad Based Planning Committee is made up of the following members:

Coordinator	Parent
Elementary Teacher	Community Member
Middle School Teacher	Elementary Student
Middle School Counselor	Middle School Student
High School Counselor	

Professional Development Plan

The high ability teachers will be attending Jr. Great Books Training in Chicago, IL during the summer of 2015.

All staff K-12 will have the opportunity to attend professional development in June by Sandra Adams. She will discuss how to increase rigor requirements to meet more complex cognitive requirements within the CCR standards.