



Gifted Programming @ Curtis Fundamental Elementary School

Is your child...

- an out of the box thinker?
- surprising you with their knowledge?
- one who loves to question?
- one who has unique interests?
- creative?

If you answered **yes** to any of the above, or you're simply interested in learning more about your child's strengths, contact us to have your child screened for the gifted services eligibility process.

What are gifted services? Gifted is an education service provided to students that meet state criteria for gifted eligibility and support students with their strengths in the following areas: knowledge, questioning, research, creativity, leadership, goal setting, and products/presentations.

Screening? The screening for the gifted services eligibility process is completed with your child during the school day and takes about 30 minutes to complete. Results of the screening are typically sent home within a week of the screening with possible proposed next steps.

Questions? Call the school at 727-738-6483 & ask to speak with us or e-mail us. (E-mail is preferred.)
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Curtis Fundamental Elementary School, Gifted Program Teachers

Myths About Gifted Students (from NAGC.org)

Myth: All Children Are Gifted

Truth: All children have strengths and positive attributes, but not all children are gifted in the educational sense of the word. The label "gifted" in a school setting means that when compared to others his or her age or grade, a child has an advanced capacity to learn and apply what is learned in one or more subject areas...Gifted does not connote good or better; it is a term that allows students to be identified for services that meet their unique learning needs.

Myth: Gifted Students Don't Need Help; They'll Do Fine On Their Own

Truth: Would you send a star athlete to train for the Olympics without a coach? Gifted students need guidance from well-trained teachers who challenge and support them in order to fully develop their abilities.



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Myth: Gifted Students Are Happy, Popular, And Well Adjusted In School

Truth: Many gifted students flourish in their community and school environment. However, gifted children differ in terms of their emotional and moral intensity, sensitivity to expectations and feelings, perfectionism, and deep concerns about societal problems.

How to Support a Gifted Student at Home (from NAGC.org)

Parents, educators, and the broader community have a responsibility to support all children as they reach for their personal best. It is essential to support the growth and development of the whole gifted child including their intellectual, social, emotional, and physical domains.

Parents & Caregivers

That support begins at home. Parents and caregivers are usually the first to identify a child's extraordinary gifts and talents. Parents recognize above norm abilities, interests, and passions that are different in other children they see. Being gifted often comes with challenges like asynchronous development or social and emotional challenges.

Parents can engage with their children to provide rich stimulation and learning experiences and discover ways to partner with schools and resources in the broader community to nurture their child's specialized learning needs.

Helpful Resources

National Association for Gifted Children Parent Resource Page <http://www.nagc.org/resources-publications/resources-parents>

Gifted Guru Resources for Parents <http://www.giftedguru.com/resources/resources-for-parents/>

Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted <https://www.sengifted.org>

What is a Typical Gifted Day Like at Curtis for Students that Receive Gifted Services?

-Most Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade gifted program students are pulled out of their general education class for gifted services 3-5 hours one day a week. Most 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade gifted program students are pulled out of their general education class for gifted services 4-5 hours one day a week. Regardless of grade level, all students will still attend their PE, Art, or Music with their general education class. Depending on the day and scheduling, gifted program students may or may not have Recess and/or Lunch with their general education class.

-All lessons taught, regardless of grade level, align with Florida's Frameworks for K-12 Gifted Learners. This framework is different from grade level standards as what we teach heavily focuses on **how** to learn, process, and share information versus focusing on exactly **what** to learn, process, and share.

-While at gifted, students take part in English Language Arts and Math lessons that focus heavily on applying knowledge and thinking in critical & creative ways. In addition, students have two more portions of their gifted day that could relate to any of the following 8 categories: Critical & Creative Thinking, Leadership, Products, Questioning, Research, and Teamwork.

-Each year, English Language Arts is focused on a unit (2023-2024's unit is Ecology & Interactions). Math is focused on deepening an understanding of each grade level's current math standards.

Gifted at Curtis FAQ

-Are there grades in gifted?

No, but student work is monitored, and once a school year, parents will receive a Gifted Services Progress Report that shares what their child has done in Gifted Services that supports their Education Plan goals.

-Homework or projects in gifted?

Sometimes. When such assignments are given, information will be communicated home about homework/project expectations via email/planners/notes home with fair time allowed to complete expected tasks.

-Will my child have to make up classwork they miss when they receive gifted services?

No. Gifted services in Pinellas County are viewed as 'in place of' educational services for the day, not 'in addition to'. Teachers may still assign the same homework as their peers based off content the gifted program student was not present for, but the student cannot receive consequences for not fully completing the work if they do not understand the concepts of the homework that they were not present for the day they were in gifted. In addition, teachers may not send home missed classwork due to gifted services as required homework. They may, however, send home missed classwork as optional work to be completed, but the students cannot receive consequences for not completing the missed work as it was optional homework. Teachers also have the option of sending home missed classwork as required homework in lieu of other assigned homework expectations but are mindful if the student doesn't understand the concepts as they weren't in class that day. Teachers are also mindful about having students make up missed classwork in class. They have the option to prioritize makeup work that needs to be completed in class for students.

-Do parents of gifted program students attend require conferences with the gifted teachers over a school year just like they attend required conferences with the general education teacher a few times a year?

No, but if you ever would like to schedule a conference with us, reach out to us anytime!

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