

HIGHLY CAPABLE PROGRAM BLAINE SCHOOL DISTRICT 503

PROGRAM VISION

The Blaine School District recognizes that our students have a wide range of skills, talents, and needs. We believe the assessment of all students to diagnose instructional needs should be an ongoing process in our district's classrooms. We work hard to provide a rigorous and appropriate instructional program for *each* of our students. The Blaine School District offers a Highly Capable Students Program to meet the unique needs of our exceptionally gifted and talented students. We emphasize higher level thinking, problem solving, and creativity development. We offer students enhanced academic extensions coordinated with the regular curriculum. New state common core standards have set guidelines for instruction for all students in higher level thinking skills, including critical thinking, problem solving, interpretation, analysis and evaluation. Our primary effort is to support teachers in developing more varied and flexible approaches toward grouping, and instruction to better meet the needs of a wide range of learners in their classrooms.

DEFINITION OF HIGHLY CAPABLE STUDENTS

Highly capable students are students who perform or show potential for performing at significantly advanced academic levels when compared with others of their age, experiences, or environments. Outstanding abilities are seen within students' general intellectual aptitudes, specific academic abilities, and/or creative productivities within a specific domain. These students are present not only in the general populace, but are present within all protected classes.

NOMINATION AND SCREENING

Nomination for the Highly Capable Program may be initiated by a teacher with the Teacher Survey of Gifted Characteristics or a parent/guardian may use the attached form to nominate their child for a Highly Capable assessment screening.

The screening of students includes: 1) Review building and state assessments. 2) The Teacher Survey of Gifted Characteristics completed by the classroom teacher. 3) Cognitive Abilities Screening Assessment. 4) Cognitive Abilities test given in the spring each year.

When a student is found to be a candidate for testing, parents will be sent a permission to test form that must be returned in order for the student to take the Cognitive Abilities test.

SELECTION PROCESS

Students who test and score at a 95th percentile or above on **at least** one subtest will be eligible for the Highly Capable Program. The records of students who qualify for the Highly Capable Program through a combination of the above criteria are then reviewed by the Highly Capable Program Multi-Disciplinary Committee, consisting of the Building Principal, a classroom teacher, the Director of the Highly Capable Program, and a school psychologist.

The Committee will review the data and will determine who has met the District's criteria to be in the Highly Capable Program. Parents will be notified of their student's scores in the Cognitive Abilities test and if the student meets the District's criteria a Permission to Participate form will need to be signed by the parent.

ACCEPTANCE

If a student meets the District's criteria to participate in the Highly Capable Program, the parent must return the signed Permission to Participate form that will be sent with the student's scores. Once a student enters the Highly Capable Program at the Blaine School District, they will continue in the Program until Graduation unless the parent, student or District requests withdrawal.

APPEALS PROCESS

Parents may appeal if they feel their student should have been screened and/or selected for the Highly Capable Program. This appeal must be in writing and sent to Randy Elsbree, Director Federal and Special Programs, Director Highly Capable Program, 770 Mitchell St., Blaine, WA 98230.

HIGHLY CAPABLE PROGRAMS AT THE BLAINE SCHOOL DISTRICT

PRIMARY SCHOOL – Starting in school year 2014-2015, this program will include challenging curriculum. This could include advanced work in the classroom or group work outside of the classroom.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – Programs include challenging curriculum. This could include advanced work in the classroom or group work outside of the classroom. Some after school programming will be offered. The opportunity to be on the Math Champs team could be offered as well.

MIDDLE SCHOOL – Programs could include higher math placement, math and science ability grouping, Jr. SAT, Math Champs team, higher classroom placement or group work in various subjects.

HIGH SCHOOL – Programs include Advanced Placement classes, Knowledge Bowl and Math Champs teams, higher classroom placement or group work in various subjects.

*Students participating in the Highly Capable Program are encouraged to take part in the above programs. Some programs are exclusive to highly capable students.

SCHOOL DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Ron Spanjer

Superintendent Blaine School District
360-332-5881
765 H Street, Blaine, WA 98230

Randy Elsbree

Federal and Special Programs Director
Highly Capable Program Director
360-332-0728
770 Mitchell St., Blaine, WA 98230

Nancy Bakarich

Principal, Blaine Primary School

Terre Shapiro

Highly Capable Building Coordinator
360-332-1300
820 Boblett St., Blaine, WA 98230

Dr. Craig Baldwin

Principal, Blaine Elementary School
Principal, Pt. Roberts Primary School

Carol Gallaher

Highly Capable Building Coordinator
360-332-5213
836 Mitchell St., Blaine, WA 98230

Darren Benson

Principal, Blaine Middle School

Mike Campfield

Highly Capable Building Coordinator
360-332-8226
975 H Street, Blaine, WA 98230

Scott Ellis

Principal, Blaine High School

Carey Bacon

Highly Capable Building Coordinator
360-332-6045
1055 H Street, Blaine, WA 98230

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT: The district will provide equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities program without discrimination based on race, religion, creed, color, national origin, age, honorably-discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, marital status, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. The district will provide equal access to school facilities to the Boy

Scouts of America and all other designated youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society. District programs will be free from sexual harassment.

HIGHLY CAPABLE STUDENT ASSESSMENT REQUEST

If you would like your student to be considered for Highly Capable assessment screening and possible testing, you may discuss this with their classroom teacher or fill out the information below and return it to your student's school Principal or Highly Capable Building Coordinator or Randy Elsbree, the Highly Capable Program Director.

Student Name _____

Age _____ Grade _____

Teacher's Name _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Telephone _____

Parent Signature _____

If your student has participated in a Gifted Program at a previous school please note below.

School Name and Phone Number _____

Participation Dates _____

