

**Wahkiakum School District**

# *Highly Capable Programs*

Program Descriptions,  
Referral Form & Parent Permission

***DUE DATE: May 15, 2015***

Wahkiakum School District  
500 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Cathlamet, WA 98612  
360.795.3271

## Wahkiakum School District Highly Capable Program Descriptions

**Definition:** 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 general populace, but are present within all protected classes. For district identification purposes, students who score in the 97<sup>th</sup> percentile or above on a norm-referenced and standardized intelligence quotient assessment will be identified for the Highly Capable program.

### Grades Served: K-2

#### Brief Description

- Kindergarten: Advanced Walk to Read and Math during intervention.
- 1st & 2nd Grades: Walk to Read model for additional reading skills curriculum; Walk to Math model for additional math skills curriculum.
- Inquiry & Project Based Learning
- Integration of Technology for Accelerated Learning

### Grades Served: 3-5

#### Brief Description

- Differentiated instruction and accelerated curriculum based on student abilities.
- Walk to Read & Math Model
- Inquiry & Project Based Learning
- Integration of Technology for Accelerated Learning

### Grades Served: 6-8

#### Brief Description

- Accelerated Curriculum – Math & ELA
- Differentiated Instruction
- Algebra at 8<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Inquiry & Project Based Learning
- Integration of Technology for Accelerated Learning

### Grades Served: 9-10

#### Brief Description

- Differentiated Instruction
- Counselor assigned to each identified student for their high school career to guide them in class, career, and educational options available.
- Other options based on student need.

### Grades Served: 10-12

#### Brief Description

- *AP / Honors / Online Classes* Available
- *Running Start* is available for eligible 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- Counselor assigned to each identified student for their high school career to guide them in class, career, and educational options available.

## *Referral Process*

### *Who can initially refer students to highly capable testing?*

Anyone may refer a student for testing for the Highly Capable Program. Referrals can come from parents, teachers, school specialists, friends, family, community members, or even the student themselves. These forms are attached to this document and available at <http://www.wahksd.k12.wa.us>.

### *Referral Timeline*

The referral forms (attached) for the 2015-16 school year placements are available on line or in each school office.

### *Parent Referral Forms and Permissions*

All parents (if not the originator of the referral form) must complete a Referral Form and give permission for the student to be tested and potentially placed in Highly Capable Programs. The form is attached to this handout and available on-line.

### *Teacher Referrals & Feedback Forms*

Teachers complete a *Teacher Referral & Feedback Form* for every one of their students that have been referred for testing. These are available online or in each school office.

**All referral forms, parent permissions and teacher referral forms are due to the school office by March 15, 2015 for the next school year.**

## *Screening, Assessments & Selection Process*

**Screening:** Students nominated for highly capable programs use one or more of the following:

- **Achievement Test Scores**
  - **Grades K-2:**
    - Teacher Referral, CogAT Screener, Assessment Data
  - **Grades 3-12:**
    - District and Statewide assessments: students must meet or exceed standard.
- **Creativity:** Creativity is assessed via Renzulli-Hartman scale that is completed as part of the teacher feedback form.

**Assessment:** Students identified during the screening process will participate in the CogAT Assessment.

- **Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT):** Qualifying students score at the 97<sup>th</sup> percentile or above on composite score **or** 97<sup>th</sup> percentile and above on non-verbal and quantitative clusters for English language learners.

**Selection:** A *Multi-Disciplinary Team* consisting of teachers, school administrator, and school psychologist/building assessment coordinator or other qualified practitioner trained in the interpretation of assessment results is convened to review the above mentioned data and make final selection decisions.

## *Testing Process & Testing Dates* (for 2015-2016 Placement)

**Grade K-12:** Testing will take place during the middle of May through the middle of June.

### *Notification*

Student's work on the CogAT will be submitted on the day of testing. Once results arrive in the district, the **Multi-disciplinary Team** must meet to review results and make placement decisions. Schools and parents are tentatively scheduled to be **notified via mail or phone by the end of June**. Once a student has qualified for highly capable programs, they do not need to test again. If parents have any questions about placement, they are directed to call Stephanie Leitz at 360.795.3271.

### *Appeals*

**Appeals:** Appeals are considered annually for students who did not meet the criteria. The **Multi-disciplinary Team** will examine provided evidence of high ability and need for program placement. Parents must contact the Highly Capable office at (509) 836.8732 to receive an appeal form. **The deadline for appeals is 10 school days after receipt of the placement notification letter.**

**Outside testing:** Private testing as well as testing from other districts is accepted for appeal review.

### *Transfer Students*

Students who transfer in from out-of-district and have qualified in their former districts highly capable program **are not** automatically enrolled. Test scores and placement letters from the students' previous district may be used as long as they meet the placement criteria for the Wahkiakum School District.

**Note:** When a student, who is a child of a military family in transition, has been assessed or enrolled as highly capable by a sending school, the receiving school shall initially honor placement of the student into a like program.

## *Characteristics of Gifted Children*

Observing gifted characteristics is often difficult when we are dealing with obviously bright children. The chart below is helpful in seeing the subtle differences between the bright child and the gifted learner.

<b>Bright Child</b>	<b>Gifted Learner</b>
Knows the answers	Asks the questions
Is interested	Is highly curious
Is attentive	Is mentally and physically involved
Answers the questions	Discusses in detail, elaborates
Top group	Beyond the group
Listens with interest	Shows strong feelings and opinions
Learns with ease	Already knows
6-8 repetitions for mastery	1-2 repetitions for mastery
Understand ideas	Constructs abstractions
Enjoys peers	Prefers adults
Grasps the meaning	Draws inferences
Is receptive	Is intense
Copies accurately	Creates a new design
Enjoys school	Enjoys learning
Absorbs information	Manipulates information
Technician	Inventor
Good memorizer	Good guesser
Enjoys straightforward, sequential presentation	Thrives on complexity
Is alert	Is keenly observant
Is pleased with own learning	Is highly self-critical

### **What Does Highly Capable Mean?**

Being Highly Capable means having extraordinary ability or potential in intellect, academic aptitude or creative thinking.

Some examples include:

- \* Advanced vocabulary
- \* Curiosity (asks endless questions)
- \* Sophisticated sense of humor
- \* Experiments with ideas
- \* Advanced creativity

### **Notice of Non-Discrimination/Title IX**

The Wahkiakum School District complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender or disability. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular activities. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the school district's Title IX/RCW 28A.260 compliance officer at (360)795.3971. The address is 500 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Cathlamet, WA 98612.

**Wahkiakum School District Highly Capable Program  
REFERRAL FORM and Parent Permission to Test**

***DIRECTIONS:*** Please complete the information below and return to your child's building principal by **May 15, 2016.**

K-5 Program    6-8 Program    9-12 Program

***STUDENT INFORMATION***

Student Name:	Grade:
School:	Teacher:

***Person Completing this Referral***

Name:
Relation to Student: <input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Other:

***Parent Permission:*** I give permission for my child to participate in testing for the Highly Capable Program.

<b>Parent Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Student Birthdate:</b>
<b>Mailing Address (street, city, state, zip):</b>		<b>Phone:</b>

Please respond to the statements below by marking the number that best represents the student. Additional information regarding a student’s exceptional ability, achievement and/or creativity may be submitted with this application.

**To what extent are the following characteristics typical of the student being nominated?**

Circle appropriate number beside each phrase.

	<b>Almost Never</b>	<b>Seldom</b>	<b>Sometimes</b>	<b>Often</b>	<b>Almost Always</b>
1. Constantly asks question.....	1	2	3	4	5
2. Offers unusual responses.....	1	2	3	4	5
3. Likes to try new things.....	1	2	3	4	5
4. Learns easily and quickly.....	1	2	3	4	5
5. Creates original ideas and products.....	1	2	3	4	5
6. Has many interests, hobbies and collections.....	1	2	3	4	5
7. Is bored with routine tasks.....	1	2	3	4	5
8. Uses advanced vocabulary.....	1	2	3	4	5
9. Enjoys complex tasks.....	1	2	3	4	5
10. Displays a keen sense of humor.....	1	2	3	4	5
11. Intense; gets totally into tasks or thoughts.....	1	2	3	4	5
12. Relates easily to adults and older peers.....	1	2	3	4	5
13. Sense of fairness.....	1	2	3	4	5
14. Works well independently.....	1	2	3	4	5
15. Unusually persistent in his/her interest of a topic.....	1	2	3	4	5

Additional comments (if needed):

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**Wahkiakum School District Highly Capable Program  
Parent Permission to Place**

**K-5 Program**    **6-8 Program**    **9-12 Program**

***STUDENT INFORMATION***

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this form, you are giving Wahkiakum School District, permission to place your child in the district Highly Capable program. You are also acknowledging that you have read and are aware of all the program elements to include: program descriptions, referral process, screening, assessments and selection process, appeal procedures, transfer students and exit procedures which were included in the referral packet and can be found on our website.

***Parent Permission (Only complete if you are the parent):*** *I give Wahkiakum School District permission to test and place my child in the Highly Capable Program if he/she qualifies.*

Print Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_