

Hopewell Crest Elementary School

Gifted and Talented Program

Grades K – 8

2021 – 2022

Table of Contents

Program Definition and New Jersey Administrative Code.....	3
Program Goals.....	3
Program Structure.....	4
Gifted and Talented for Elementary School: Grades K- 5	4
Acceleration for Middle School: Grades 6 - 8	4
Identification of Students.....	5
Elementary School: Grade 2.....	5
Elementary School: Grade 3.....	5
Elementary School: Grades 4 & 5	5
Middle School: Grades 6 - 8.....	5
Identification Criteria Charts.....	6 - 7
Procedures for Identification and Admission.....	8
Identifying New Program Participants—Grades 2 - 8.....	8
Additional Characteristics of the 2-8 Gifted & Talented Program.....	9
Placement Questions.....	9
Grading.....	9
Removal from Program.....	10
Program Evaluation	10

Program Definition and New Jersey Administrative Code

The Hopewell Township School District's Gifted and Talented program is designed to meet the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.1. and is outlined in Hopewell Crest School Policy [6171.2](#). The program goal is to ensure that the educational needs of students are met and that they are afforded opportunities to explore and excel in areas of aptitude and interest.

Hopewell Township's Gifted and Talented Program adheres to the following definition developed by the NJ State Board of Education:

Those students who possess or demonstrate high levels of ability, in one or more content areas, when compared to their chronological peers in the local district and who require modification of their educational program if they are to achieve in accordance with their capabilities (N.J.A.C.6A: 8-1.3).

Selection for Hopewell Township's Gifted and Talented Program is also determined in accordance with N.J.A.C.6A: 8-3.1:

District boards of education shall make provisions for an ongoing K-12 identification process for gifted and talented students that includes multiple measures, including but not limited to, achievement test scores, grades, student performance or products, intelligence testing, parent, student and/or teacher recommendation, and other appropriate measures.

Program Goals

1. To encourage the development of student potential more fully by offering learning experiences to those who demonstrate a high-performance capability in academic and/or whole talent areas.
2. To foster and develop the abilities and talents of students by providing enrichment opportunities.

Program Structure

Gifted and Talented Program for Elementary School: Grades K – 5

At the elementary level, the program model is grounded in the use of differentiated instruction to provide opportunities for enrichment during the daily classroom instruction.

1. Students in grades 2-5 are identified for Gifted and Talented based upon their math and literacy performance. Multiple measures are used to determine eligibility.
2. Based on identification criteria, students in grades 2-5 will receive a Gifted and Talented Program that may include but is not limited to the following:
 - a. Differentiated instruction in daily classroom lessons.
 - b. Access to learning centers featuring challenging activities at or above the student's current grade level.
 - c. Access to higher-level reading books.
 - d. Placement in a Gifted and Talented enrichment pull-out program.

Acceleration for Middle School: Grades 6 – 8

At the middle school level, the Gifted and Talented Program places students in Mathematics and Language Arts courses based on ability and demonstrated performance. Courses include the following: High Language Arts, Accelerated Mathematics in grade 7, and high school level Algebra I in grade 8.

Identification of Students

To identify students who demonstrate exceptional ability along with students who demonstrate the potential for exceptional abilities and talents, the following criteria have been established for the Hopewell Township Gifted and Talented Program.

The criteria below will be used in the beginning of the current school year (in the Fall) to determine eligibility/placement for students in grades 2-5. For students entering grades 6-8, the criteria will be used at the end of the current school year to determine eligibility/placement for the following school year. In addition, the teacher recommendation will be conducted by the current year's teacher for placement in the subsequent school year/grade level.

Elementary School: Grades 2 & 3

1. Standards Mastery on Report Card
2. Current Reading Level
3. I-Ready Reading & Math Benchmark Assessments
4. Teacher Recommendation

Elementary School: Grade 4 & 5

1. Standards Mastery on Report Card
2. Current Reading Level
3. NJSLA scores from Spring test (or Start Strong Fall Assessment)
4. I-Ready Reading & Math Benchmark Assessments
5. Teacher Recommendation

Middle School: Grades 6 - 8

1. Standards Mastery on Report Card, with a focus on students' final grades in Accelerated Math and ELA (English Language Arts) classes.
2. NJSLA scores from Spring test (or Start Strong Fall Assessment)
3. I-Ready Reading & Math Benchmark Assessments
4. Teacher Recommendation

Identification Criteria Charts

The criteria outlined in the following charts are used as a basis from which placement decisions are made. Eligibility for students in grades 2-5 will be determined at the beginning of the school year (in the Fall). For students in grades 6-8, the criteria will be used at the end of the school year to determine eligibility/placement for the following school year. Students with the highest combined scores from the criteria outlined below will be eligible for placement into the Hopewell Township Gifted and Talented Program.

Grade 2: Gifted and Talented Program

Subject	Standards on Report Card	I-Ready Scores	Guided Reading Level	Teacher Recommendation
ELA	A or B	Grade 2 or Above	J	Yes
Math	A or B	Grade 2 or Above		Yes

Grade 3: Gifted and Talented Program

Subject	Standards on Report Card	I-Ready Scores	Guided Reading Level	Teacher Recommendation
ELA	A or B	Grade 3 or Above	M	Yes
Math	A or B	Grade 3 or Above		Yes

Skills on Report Card

The report card encompasses important content/skills taught throughout the school year. Students' levels of standards proficiency are categorized by the following: 92.5 + = A, 84.5 + = B, 75.5 + = C, 69.5 + = D, and 0 + = F. A level A is exceeding expectations in grade-level standards, and a level B is meeting grade level standards.

Guided Reading Level

Whenever a student enters a new grade, he/she is assessed and assigned a guided reading level. The level is based upon word knowledge, reading comprehension, and fluency. Guided reading levels range from A to Z with A representing the lowest level to Z representing the highest level.

Grade 4: Gifted and Talented Program

Subject	Standards on Report Card	I-Ready Scores	NJSLA Scores	Guided Reading Level	Teacher Recommendation
ELA	A or B	Grade 4 or Above	750 - 850	P	Yes
Math	A or B	Grade 4 or Above	750 - 850		Yes

Grade 5: Gifted and Talented Program

Subject	Standards on Report Card	I-Ready Scores	NJSLA Scores	Guided Reading Level	Teacher Recommendation
ELA	A or B	Grade 5 or Above	750 - 850	S	Yes
Math	A or B	Grade 5 or Above	750 - 850		Yes

Grades 6 - 8: Gifted and Talented Program

Subject	Final Grades on Report Card	I-Ready Scores	NJSLA Scores	Teacher Recommendation
ELA	A or B	On or above grade level	750 - 850	Yes
Math	A or B	On or above grade level	750 - 850	Yes

Final Grades

Students' final, end-of-year grades on their report cards will be used as a measure for eligibility. Students' final grades in Language Arts/Mathematics must be As or Bs.

Procedures for Identification and Admission

Identifying New Program Participants—Grades 2 – 8

1. Classroom teachers can recommend a student. The student's performance will be reviewed against the program criteria.

2. There will be a review of the program criteria at the end of each school year to identify students, independent of teacher recommendations.

3. Parents/guardians of students in grades 2-5 will be notified in the fall of the current school year. Parents/guardians of students in grades 6-8 will be notified during the summer if their son/daughter has met the eligibility criteria and has been accepted into the Gifted and Talented Program. It is the parents' responsibility to accept/decline the opportunity to have their child placed and participate in the Gifted and Talented Program.

Recommendation for Program Placement—Grades 6 - 8

1. Placement for Accelerated classes at the Hopewell Township Middle School is based upon four criteria: a) Final grades in ELA and Mathematics, b) NJSLA scores, c) i-Ready scores, and d) Teacher recommendation. These four criteria will be used at the end of the current school year to determine eligibility/placement for the following school year.

2. The process to determine eligibility and placement in the Accelerated courses will be conducted annually. 3. Students with the highest total scores are eligible to participate in the Gifted and Talented Program each year by meeting the identification criteria.

Additional Characteristics of the Grades 2-8 Gifted & Talented Program

Placement Questions

1. Parents should contact their child's school should they have a question regarding their son's/daughter's eligibility for the program.
2. The student's profile and the Gifted and Talented Program criteria will be reviewed with the parent/guardian.

Grading

Elementary School: Grades 2 - 5

1. Students in grade 2 - 5 must maintain As and Bs on their report card each quarter to maintain program eligibility. Multiple measures will be used to determine program eligibility if a student earns lower than a B in any area of the report card.
2. Parents will receive progress reports outlining their child's progress.

Middle School: Grades 6 - 8

1. Students in grades 6 - 8 High Language Arts and/or 6 - 8 Accelerated Mathematics courses will receive grades for their performance.
2. Students in grades 6 - 8 must maintain at least a B average or higher in their accelerated Language Arts and/or Mathematics classes each marking period to maintain program eligibility. Multiple measures will be used to determine program eligibility if a student earns a grade lower than a B.

Removal from Program Removal from Elementary and Middle School Programs

Students may be removed from the Gifted and Talented Program if they fail to meet the program criteria, their academic record indicates a decline in classroom performance, or if parents request that their child be removed.

Program Evaluation

The Gifted and Talented Program will be evaluated by district and school administrators each school year. Please contact your child's school with any questions regarding the Hopewell Township School District's Gifted and Talented Program.