



**WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?**

Any parent, teacher, or school staff member wishing to make a referral for an evaluation to determine eligibility for the gifted program can send a request to the school Student Assistance Team (SAT). At the meeting, the team will focus on brainstorming, evaluating, selecting, and tailoring interventions to meet student needs. The School Psychologist for the building will be present at the SAT meeting to assist with answering any questions regarding the evaluation process and eligibility factors.

Additional questions related to Harrison County Schools Gifted Program and eligibility can be directed to:

**Dr. Victor Fisher,**  
*Director of Pupil Services*  
304-326-7360

**Christina Hare, Ed.S., NCSP**  
*Lead School Psychologist*  
304-326-7672

As parents and students begin to work on the Personalized Education Plan and complete pre-registration for the next school year, questions may arise about AP, Honors or dual credit offerings. For information related to AP, Honors or dual credit courses offered in each of the Harrison County Schools, students should meet with a school counselor or contact:

**Grant Spencer or Heidi Griffith,**  
*Coordinators of Secondary Education*  
304-326-7314 or 304-326-7312

**ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES:  
IDENTIFYING GIFTED  
AND TALENTED STUDENTS  
HONORS, ADVANCED PLACEMENT  
AND DUAL CREDIT OFFERINGS**



**Dr. Mark A. Manchin,**  
**Superintendent**

**HARRISON COUNTY SCHOOLS**

445 West Main Street  
Clarksburg, WV 26302

[www.harcoboe.net](http://www.harcoboe.net)

Handout was adapted from Weld County School District 6 brochure "gifted and talented program".

## IS MY CHILD GIFTED? HOW DO I KNOW?

All children are special and have their own areas of strength. However, some children have unusually advanced abilities that require special adjustments at home and school to help them grow and learn. As you watch your child grow and develop, you may notice skills or characteristics that are quite different from those of other children the same age.

*For example, your child may:*

- Be very curious and observant
- Use adult-sounding words and reasoning
- Think of many unusual ideas
- Recognize complex patterns or relationships
- Come to surprising solutions to problems
- Show a strong memory
- Ask unusual questions
- Demonstrate advanced talent in a certain area (such as mathematics, science, writing, art, music, or drama)
- Learn letters or numbers easily and read before being formally taught

Children can show giftedness in a variety of ways, and often parents are the first to notice special abilities. If you are seeing a number of these behaviors in your child, it might be a signal that their development is somewhat advanced.



ARTS | HEALTH  
LITERACY | MATHEMATICS  
SCIENCE | SOCIAL STUDIES

## WHAT ARE SOME CHALLENGES I MIGHT SEE FROM MY GIFTED CHILD?

One thing to keep in mind is that gifted children are children first. Some of their special characteristics and behaviors may include:

- Intense and strong-willed
- Extreme perfectionism
- Impatient with themselves and others
- Act out because they are not being academically challenged
- Sound so adult-like that parents sometimes expect behavior beyond their child's level of maturity.

## ARE GIFTED CHILDREN GOOD AT EVERYTHING?

Some gifted children may show strengths across all academic areas and continue to excel throughout school. Other gifted children may excel in one area but be average or even below average in another area. Still other gifted children may start by showing high achievement across all areas but later demonstrate high ability only in one or two areas.

It is not uncommon for gifted children to show an uneven pattern of performance. However, if a child is struggling significantly in an area, consult with school professionals about the possibility of a learning disability. Children can be gifted and also have a learning disability. An educational plan can be developed to respond to both the giftedness and the learning disability.

## MY CHILD IS GIFTED, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Family members play important roles in providing learning experiences for children.

- Recognize and build on the strengths and talents you witness in your child
- Encourage your child's curiosity and creativity
- Help your child find activities they love
- Give your child opportunities to take healthy risks as they explore the wonder around them

Like all children, young gifted children need to become comfortable with trying new things and learning mistakes. When your child has mastered one activity, present an opportunity for new challenges. Recognize that your child may be ready for experiences earlier than other children and that his or her questions and interests may surprise and challenge you!

## CAN CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES ALSO BE GIFTED?

Some gifted children also have disabilities that affect learning, including:

- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- Learning Disabilities
- Autism Spectrum Disorder

In these cases, schools and families should provide support to respond to both the giftedness and the learning difficulties. Education and medical professionals will help to make an appropriate intervention plan for children with these types of dual exceptionalities, but it is important for professionals to include attention to a child's ability and school environment in making an assessment for ADHD.

ALL STUDENTS WILL EXPERIENCE THE SUCCESS THAT IS ESSENTIAL IN BUILDING SELF ESTEEM, GAINING A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TO LEARNING, AND DEVELOPING INDEPENDENT LEARNERS.

## DOES MY CHILD HAVE ACCESS TO HONORS, AP, AND DUAL CREDIT COURSES?

All students are able to schedule Honors, AP, and Dual Credit courses within their school day. While each high school has slightly different options due to staffing and student interest, all students are encouraged to challenge themselves to reach their maximum potential. Through partnerships with local colleges and universities, all students have the opportunity to begin their college coursework while in high school. The College Board Advancement Placement (AP) program, with courses in Math, Science, English, Social Studies, World Languages, Computer Science, and the Arts allow students to learn nationally recognized college level content and earn college credit by passing the AP Exam in May.

Honors and AP courses, along with advance educational opportunities, meet the needs of those planning to attend college. Harrison County Schools offers from 3 to 8 dual-credit courses, depending upon the school. These courses are available through Fairmont State University, Marshall University, and West Virginia University. Dual credit courses are available in English, Finance, Mathematics, Science, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Teacher Cadet, and Video Journalism. These dual credit courses are offered at our high school campuses or Pierpont's campus. Annually, over 400 students take advantage of this opportunity and earn 2,400 credit hours toward college.

Additionally, college credits may also be earned by receiving a Passing score on the AP Exams in May. Nearly 500 students were enrolled in AP courses throughout the county this year. Nearly 200 of these students earned college credit last year. Honors courses are often utilized as a tool to prepare students for AP courses in middle and high schools throughout the county.

Students who believe they have an interest in an Honors, AP, or dual credit course should contact their homeroom advisor, school counselor, or an administrator at their school for opportunities and additional information.

Enrollment in these courses is discussed annually during Spring pre-registration conferences with students, class meetings, and open house events in the schools of Harrison County.

