

Gifted & Talented Activities

Below is a sample of the possible activities that a gifted or talented student may participate in during the school year.

Mathematics

Math Competitions
Sixth Grade Math Contest
Honors Math Classes

Science & Technology

8th Grade Physical Science
Vex Robotics

Social Studies

African American History Challenge

Fine Arts

Jazz Band and Honor Choir
All-City Music Festival

Across the Curriculum

Quiz Bowl
Leadership Team
The Scholars
National Junior Honor Society
Community Research/Service Learning Projects
Think Tank
Honors Special Projects

Communication Arts

Honors Language Arts Classes
Poetry Slams
Yearbook
Spelling Bee
Book Blasters
Read to Succeed
Essay Contests

Morton Magnet Middle School

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Morton Magnet Middle School

Office of Gifted & Talented



Mr. Carmichael
Gifted & Talented Facilitator

Programs and Opportunities for High Ability Learners



Morton Magnet Middle School offers a wide variety of academic courses and activities to enrich the curriculum established by the Omaha Public Schools. Each learner is unique. In order to address these unique needs of the High Ability Learner, Morton enhances the curriculum through differentiation, honors classes, competitions, and enrichment opportunities. Participation in these programs helps the High Ability Learner to develop their talents, expand their learning, and achieve success.

How do I get involved?

Students will be notified of upcoming opportunities through the GATE Facilitator, the monthly newsletter, and daily announcements. Involvement in many of the competitions, programs, and other activities will require class pullouts and/or after school or Saturday meetings.

Identification

The Omaha Public Schools' method of identifying gifted and talented students is modeled after NAGC (National Association of Gifted Children). Our identification encompasses five areas:

- **Intellectual** (130+ performance on an IQ test),
- **Academic** (above 95% performance on any Standardized Achievement Test),
- **Creative, Leadership, and Visual/Performing Arts.**

Middle School is an opportunity for students to self-select areas that will allow them to explore and capitalize on their strengths, showcase their talents, and excel. Whether it is found in their course work, a competition, a contest or an extra curricular activity, students' giftedness and/or talents can blossom and develop at Morton.

What is Differentiation?

Differentiation of instruction is the modification of the curriculum to match the abilities, needs, learning styles, and interests of our students. This is accomplished through the use of instructional strategies that will challenge all students. Pre-assessment, rubrics, pacing, high level questioning, scaffolding, compacting, and the acceleration of materials are all strategies that stretch the minds' of our high ability learners.

Socratic Seminars

A Socratic seminar will provoke student's thoughts, promote dialogue, and foster reflective and critical thinking. Students read and prepare open-ended, high-level questions based on an assigned text. In a round-table format, students will pose questions, share viewpoints, support their opinions, agree and disagree. The seminar closes with a written reflection based on the discussion.