

GIFTED STUDENTS AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL



The Gifted Middle School Student

Characteristics

- ❑ Rapid rate of learning
- ❑ Advanced verbal skills and vocabulary
- ❑ Capable of higher level thinking
- ❑ Prefers complexity
- ❑ Melioration (Meaning Maker)
- ❑ Asynchronous development
- ❑ Strong sense of morality and justice
- ❑ Sophisticated sense of humor

Supporting the Gifted Student

Academic

Social

Emotional

- Academic
 - Acceleration
 - Math
 - Student Empowerment
 - Goal Conferencing
 - Organizational skills
 - Time Management
 - Task Management
 - Higher Order Thinking Skills/Strategies
 - Student Enrichment
 - Seminars
 - Guest Speakers
 - Tiered Instruction/Assessment

Supporting the Gifted Student

Academic

Social

Emotional

- Social
 - ▣ Collaborative Skills
 - ▣ Time with intellectual peers
 - Lunch and Learn
 - Interest groups
 - Book Clubs
 - Puzzles/Games
 - Robotics
 - Academic Challenge
 - Math Counts
 - Science Fair
 - National History Day

Supporting the Gifted Student

Academic

Social

Emotional

- Emotional
 - ▣ Acknowledgement and affirmation of gifts and abilities
 - ▣ Association and alliance with students of like ability
 - ▣ Psychological nourishment
 - Understanding of multiple intelligences and learning styles
 - Leadership styles and their applications
 - Application of above in collaborative settings
 - Support Groups
 - Perfectionism
 - Underachievement
 - ▣ Mentorships
 - Exploration of interests to identify passions

Challenging the Gifted Student

Enrichment

Extension

Acceleration

Compaction

- Enrichment and Extension
 - ▣ “Instead of” vs. “in addition to”
 - ▣ Creative and critical thinking
 - ▣ Electives
 - Book Club
 - Lunch and Learn
 - Speakers
 - Field Trips
 - Academic Competitions
 - Honors coursework in 4 major subjects (8th)

Challenging the Gifted Student

Enrichment

Extension

Acceleration

Compaction

▣ Differentiated Instruction

- Tiered Lessons
- Product Menus
- Independent Learning Contracts

- Acceleration
- Math ability grouping
- Science (Honors track)

GIFTEDNESS IS SOMEONE YOU ARE
NOT SOMETHING YOU DO

IT IS A PERSONAL TRAIT
NOT A STANDARD OF BEHAVIOR.

Jim Delisle