

Gila Crossing Community School
Gifted and Talented Program
2007-2008

Narrative

MISSION:

The mission of the Gila Crossing Community School Gifted and Talented Program is to develop skills that enable gifted students to be successful in our community and our world, to develop gifted students' positive self-concept to increase self-esteem, and to build upon the students' positive aspects and strengths.

GOALS:

Development of positive self-concepts

Development of understanding of students' giftedness

Development of abilities that will enable students to be successful in both their own and mainstream cultures; social skills, critical thinking skills, decision making skills, problem solving skills, and planning and goal making.

Respect and acceptance of diversity

Draw on community resources.

The Gifted and Talented Program will provide enrichment for those students identified in the five areas of giftedness: Intellectual Ability, Creative/Divergent Thinking, Academic Aptitude/Achievement, Leadership, Visual and Performing Arts. The Gifted and Talented Program will insure the holistic development of each student through culture, social, physical, intellectual/academic experiences that will provide these students with opportunities to become self-actualized, self-motivated leaders and producers of ideas.

The Gila Crossing Community School Gifted and Talented Program Definition:

The term gifted and talented means students, children, or youth who give evidence of high achievement capability in areas such as intellectual, creative, artistic, or leadership capacity, or in specific academic fields and need services or activities not ordinarily provided by the school to fully develop those capabilities.

The Gifted and Talented Program will incorporate these definitions of gifted and talented for programming purposes.

IDENTIFICATION OF STUDENTS:

Identification of students shall consist of (a.) Child find efforts; (b) on-going nomination and referral procedures; (c) student screening procedures; (d) assessment/evaluation process (with written parental consent); (e) placement by the gifted and talented program teacher/coordinator in consultation with a multi-disciplinary placement team.

CHILD FIND:

This involves activities seeking students who demonstrate any characteristics that might indicate their potential giftedness in any of the areas listed above. The specific goals in the Child Find stage are to promote awareness of the Gifted and Talented Program; to encourage the nomination and referral of promising students; and to promote greater program participation. This will be an on-going process that will help locate students not only for the current school year, but also for subsequent years.

NOMINATION AND REFERRAL PROCESS:

Students can be nominated by any of the following:

- A teacher or other school staff
- Another student
- A community member
- A parent or legal guardian
- A student can nominate himself or herself

Students can be nominated based on information regarding the student's abilities from any of the following sources:

- Collection of work
- Audio/visual tapes
- School Grades
- Judgment of work by qualified individuals knowledgeable about the child's performances.
- Interviews or observations.
- Information from other sources.

The school must have written parental consent to collect documentation of gifts and talents.

The on-going identification process includes nominations taken from the academic staff, parents, community, and support staff using the Student Nomination form. (see appendix A) Students may also submit nominations for peers or may make self nominations for the program. Surveys with attached Student Nomination Forms will be distributed at the beginning of each school year. The nomination process insures that there is a pool of potential participants that are identified for initial screening.

Students who are recognized as having potential in one or more of the five areas of giftedness will be immediately directed to the Gifted and Talented teacher/coordinator, who will coordinate the initial screening of these students. Parent/Guardian Permission for Evaluation Form must be signed after nomination so that the student may be given further evaluations for identification purposes. Nominations may be accepted throughout the year to include those new students who may not have been nominated during the initial process (enrollment) or have come into the school system at mid-year, etc.

Students must be identified as talented and gifted in at the beginning at least one of the following areas:

Intellectual Ability: Scoring in the top 5% on a statistically valid and reliable measurement tool of intellectual ability.

Creativity/Critical or Divergent Thinking: Scoring in the top 5% of performance on a statistically valid and reliable measurement tool of creativity/divergent thinking.

Academic Aptitude/Achievement: Scoring in the top 15% of academic performance in a total subject area score on a statistically valid and reliable measurement tool of academic achievement/aptitude, or a standardized assessment.

Leadership: Students recognized as possessing the ability to lead, guide, or influence the actions of others as measured by objective standards that a reasonable person of the community would believe demonstrates that the student possesses leadership skills. Students will score an average of 90% or above on three leadership checklists.

Visual/Performing Arts: Outstanding ability to excel in any imaginative art form; including but not limited to, drawing, printing, sculpture, jewelry making, music, dance, speech, debate, or drama. Students will score an average of 90% or above on three Visual/Performing Arts Checklists.

STUDENT SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE:

The next step in identification is to screen and evaluate students for criteria to determine eligibility for the Gifted and Talented Program. The nomination process identifies a large pool of potentially eligible students, further screening and evaluation is needed to narrow the field of students to those who have demonstrated gifts or talents eligible for the program.

The Gifted and Talented Program will locate and screen students in an on-going effort that includes but is not limited to the following:

1. Classroom teachers will screen their own student folders for possible participants at the end of each school year for grade point averages, standardized test scores, participation in clubs/organizations, special recognition, and comments by teachers, counselors, or parents indicating their

giftedness. These indicators will be presented to the program coordinator.

2. The Gifted and Talented Program Teacher/Coordinator will follow up on nominations and direct referrals. If needed, the teacher/coordinator may check students' files for additional indicators of giftedness.

During this part of the identification process, the Teacher/Coordinator will fill out and send the Parent/Guardian Permission to Gifted and Talented Evaluation. Students who were identified at their former school will be automatically placed in the program.

MEASUREMENTS THAT MAY BE USED FOR IDENTIFICATION

AIMS Duel Purpose Test for Academic Aptitude/Achievement. Students must score in the top 15% of academic performance in a total subject area. Terra Nova test for Academic Aptitude/Achievement Test. Students must score in the top 15% of academic performance in a total subject area.

PLACEMENT

A multi-disciplinary team will review the assessment results to determine eligibility for gifted and talented services.

Team members may include nominator, classroom teacher, qualified professionals who conducted the assessment, local experts as needed, and other appropriate personnel such as the principal and or counselor. A minimum of three team members is required to determine eligibility. The team will design a specific education plan to provide gifted and talented services related in the areas identified.

SERVICES PROVIDED

Gifted and talented services are provided through or under the supervision of highly qualified professional teachers. The multi-disciplinary team will sign a statement of agreement for placement of services based on documentation reviewed. Each student will

receive no less than 2 hours of Gifted and Talented instruction each week.

The parent or guardian of the student must give written permission for the student to participate.

INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLAN

The school must develop a specific education plan that contain:

The date of placement

The date services

The criterion for which the student is receiving services and the student's performance level.

Measurable goals and objectives.

SERVICES PROVIDED:

Gifted and talented services are provided through or under the supervision of highly qualified professional teachers.

The multi-disciplinary team will sign a statement of agreement for placement of services based on documentation reviewed.

The student's parent/guardian must give written permission for the student to participate.