

SPPS provides service to gifted students during the SCHOOL DAY!

Our Quality schools provide ADDITIONAL academic challenge and rigor for students.



Our schools support differentiated instruction on a daily basis.

- Our students are regularly grouped based on ability, performance, strengths, and individual need.
- Identified students may be clustered into small groups in a regular classroom for academic differentiation
- Gifted Services Specialists are trained to collaborate with classroom teachers to assist with differentiated lesson planning

- Students have opportunity to work with students of similar ability, interests or readiness

- Teachers adapt the curriculum to increase pacing, depth and complexity to challenge students on a regular basis

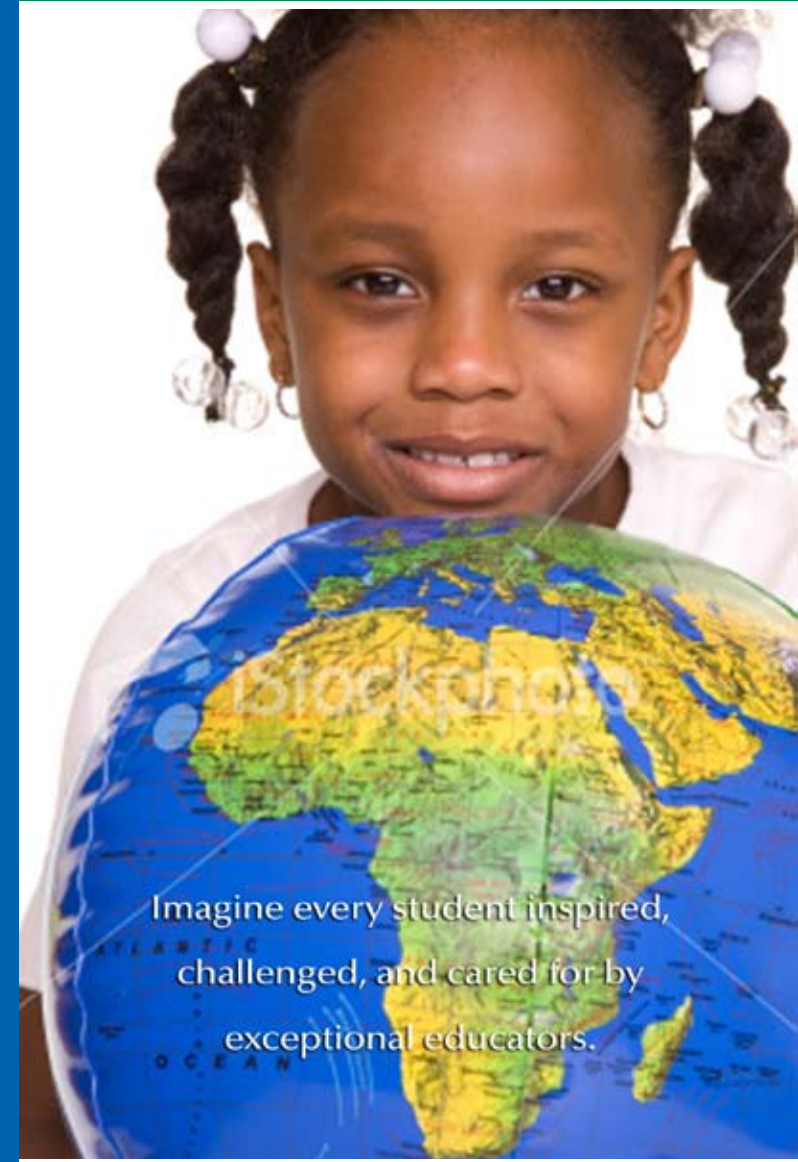
- Multi-age or cluster classrooms allow students to move through curriculum quickly or with greater depth
- Curriculum extensions provided through collaboration between building Gifted Services Specialists and Classroom Teachers

- Opportunities for in-depth study or small group investigations



- Development of critical and creative problem solving thinking skills
- Students are asked to apply their learning to find solutions to real word problems

Gifted Services Saint Paul Public Schools



For more information regarding Gifted Services
and NNAT2 testing contact
Gifted Services
at 651-744-1303.

www.gifted.spps.org



What are Gifted Services?

Gifted Services are designed to help children accelerate, enrich and grow in an environment matched to their abilities. Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) is committed to educating your child to his or her maximum potential. Gifted Services programming starts in elementary school and extends through senior high school.

In several schools there is a Gifted Services Specialist on site whose job is to make sure your child is identified and challenged in his or her area of strength on a regular basis.

How are children identified for Gifted Services?

Saint Paul Public Schools uses the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test, Second Edition (NNAT2) to identify students who will benefit from Gifted Services. All SPPS students are tested in kindergarten and in second grade each year in January. We are also able to test nominated students in grades one, three, four and five with the NNAT2. Children are identified with a score of 92 or above. Children who score between 85 and 91 are eligible for our individual portfolio review process, which is an alternative process for identification. Results are available to families four to five weeks after the test. The NNAT2 is designed to ensure fairness across gender, ethnicity and cultural background. The test items used in the NNAT2 are universal and do not contain words, making the NNAT2 appropriate for use with diverse populations of students.

What is Acceleration?

Quality schools for the gifted should provide opportunities for students who have already mastered a subject to move to more advanced materials. There are two types of acceleration. Subject Acceleration is a form of acceleration used when a student is working above grade level in a particular content area. Grade Skipping is a form of acceleration used when a student is functioning above grade level in all subject areas. Every school is required by Minnesota Statute to have a plan for acceleration. Acceleration may also happen within your child's classroom in the form of cross-grade grouping, compacting curriculum, testing for credit prior to learning, dual enrollment, or early entrance to school. The Office of Gifted Services is committed to assisting school sites with this process and has a protocol to use in conjunction with building staff to assess children for acceleration. If you feel that acceleration may be a good fit for your child, please contact your building administrator to ask for more information.

Elementary Gifted Services:

SPPS uses Treffinger's Levels of Service (LoS) approach to facilitate school services for elementary gifted students. The LoS approach has the following four key levels of successful programming:

Level I Services for ALL students

Creative and critical thinking skills, field trips, Reader's and Writer's Workshop, Everyday Math, guest speakers, enrichment days

Level II Services for MANY students

Group or class projects, inventing programs, contests, science fair, special interest groups

Level III Services for SOME students

Advanced coursework, acceleration within the classroom, curriculum compacting, differentiation

Level IV Services for a FEW students

Highly individualized instruction, early admission, Mentorships, UMTYMP, Cross Grade Placement, Grade Skipping, Subject Skipping, Advanced independent study



Many elementary buildings have a Gifted Services Specialist working on site and all buildings have a staff member designated Gifted Services Contact. The Gifted Services Specialist or Gifted Services Contact is an important person to contact if you have questions regarding Gifted Services in any elementary school in Saint Paul.

Elementary competitions, thinking skill development, and enrichment activities may include:

- Catalyst Thinking Skill Development Curriculum
- DestiNation ImagiNation
- Geography Bee
- Stock Market Game
- Continental Math League
- Math Masters
- Word Masters
- Anthology of Poetry
- Young Author's
- Junior Great Books or Book Clubs
- Language Clubs
- Young Inventor's Fair
- National History Day (grade six)
- Science and Culture Fairs
- Arts residencies
- Talent Shows
- Kids Voting

Junior High Gifted Services may include:

- Challenge level courses aligned with senior high Advanced Placement (AP) courses
- International Baccalaureate (IB), Middle Years Programs (MYP)
- Junior National Honor Society

Junior High Academic Competitions may include:

- National History Day
- Science Fair
- Science Olympiad
- Spelling Bee
- DestiNation ImagiNation
- Arts Competitions
- Geography Fair
- Math League
- Continental Math League
- Grades 7-12, Scholastic art and writing

Senior High Gifted Services may include:

- Advanced Placement (AP) courses
- International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programs
- College in the Schools courses in conjunction with the University of Minnesota
- Quest courses
- Project Lead the Way
- Mentorship programs

Senior High Academic and Arts activities and competitions may include:

- National Honor Society
- Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) Debate
- MSHSL Speech
- MSHSL One-Act Play Festival
- Competitions in World Language courses
- MN Math League
- DestiNation ImagiNation
- National History Day
- Project Lead the Way
- Les Farrington "Best 100" Juried Art Exhibition
- Grades 7-12, Scholastic art and writing
- SPPS Honors Art Exhibit
- MN Music Educator Association All State Program

