



Definition

Geneva School District Gifted Program serves those students who are identified as “Gifted.” Gifted students are those who perform or show

potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared to others of their age, experience, or environment and who are identified under division (A), (B), (C), or (D) of section 3324.03 of the Revised Code.

The gifted students served in the gifted program are identified as superior cognitive gifted in grades 4, 5, and 6. In grades 7 & 8 students identified as specific academic gifted in reading and/or math on assessment instruments approved by the Ohio Department of Education. The Gifted program is open to all eligible students. Eligibility is dependent on the Ohio identification criteria found in parent pamphlet: *Notification for Parents: Assessment, Instruments Used for Gifted Identification.*

The Gifted Program

All gifted programs are open to any eligible student within the district. The elementary gifted reading program is a pull-out program for students in grades four and five who are identified as specifically academically gifted in reading. When students attend the Middle School, grade six students will receive gifted intervention within a pullout program intended to address issues relevant to the needs of Superior Cognitive gifted students. In grades seven and eight, academically gifted students are grouped within a “cluster” group and receive a specific academic curriculum adapted to their learning needs. When gifted students enter Geneva High School, they may take a curriculum of advanced placement language, mathematics, science, and social studies courses. Senior students are eligible for “enriched” course work. gifted students can also choose to gain college credit through Post Secondary Option, and/or Dual Credit classes.

Early kindergarten entrance, subject acceleration, whole grade acceleration, and early graduation are also options available to meet the educational needs of gifted students. Board policy 5112 addresses these issues and can be found on the school website.

The fundamental goals of the gifted programs are to provide enrichment and acceleration in a variety of subject disciplines and in a variety of ways, as well as giving the gifted and talented student the opportunity to allow self-understanding and to form relationships with their intellectual peers. The gifted instructor provides students with learning experiences and activities which extend beyond the regular classroom curriculum, and give gifted students extra opportunities to develop new skills and to expand their educational environment.

A Written Education Plan is developed for each student served in the gifted program. Progress towards attaining WEP goals will be reported to parents at the end of each semester in the elementary program. In the Junior High, progress in each specific academic area will be provided quarterly. Parents of participating students will receive a copy of their child’s WEP.



The Goals of the Gifted Program

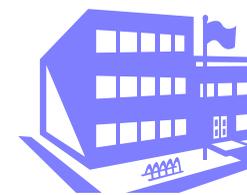
The primary goal of the gifted program is to afford all eligible participants opportunities to meet their intellectual potential. In that light, the general goals of the

Geneva Gifted Program, in addition to those goals listed in each specific academic course of study, are as follows:

1. Develop skills in higher level thinking, including critical thinking, divergent thinking, reasoning, and problem solving.
2. Develop a positive self-concept and the ability to relate productively and socially to

others.

3. Develop and enhance the student’s creative potential.
4. Develop communication skills within the areas of group dynamics, participation in organizations, active listening and oral presentation.
5. Develop research skills.
6. Develop writing skills.



The Elementary Program

With parental consent, students who are identified as Superior Cognitive gifted in grades four, five, and six are placed in an gifted group within their own school building. Once

weekly, students meet for five hours with the gifted teacher. During this time, the teacher and the students engage in enrichment activities which may include the areas of language arts and math. Activities include writing plays and essays, problem solving, creative thinking, and research.

The Middle School Program

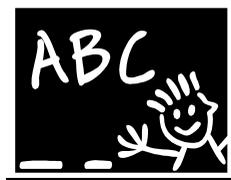
In Grade 6, participating Superior Cognitive gifted students will be in a pull-out program with instruction by the Gifted Intervention Specialist each day. The grade 6 program focuses on these areas: Career Exploration, Interpersonal Communication, Leadership, Social Interactions and Community Service. Students are also encouraged to pursue outside interests, develop career goals, and investigate people and organizations within the community.

Gifted students entering the seventh grade identified as specific academic gifted are placed into a “cluster” group of students identified as gifted and/or academically advanced within a specific subject area. These students are scheduled into accelerated courses designed to meet their unique needs. These courses include: mathematics, science, English, social studies/history, and reading. These courses include

enriched and advanced curriculums beyond the scope, breadth and depth found in the regular course work. All of these instructors hold valid Ohio licenses in these subject areas and are considered Highly Qualified Teachers. These teachers strive to meet the distinctive needs of the gifted and talented adolescent. Gifted students will remain in the “clustered” group through the eighth grade. Teachers develop Written Education Plans for each student served. Students may also take certain courses for high school credit.

The High School Program

Gifted students are offered a curriculum of advanced placement courses in science, math, social studies and language arts. Enriched courses are encouraged. Independent studies courses are available to qualifying students in mathematics, chemistry, biology, physics and computer science. Post Secondary Option and Duel Credit courses are available to students seeking college credit through the schools cooperation with various local colleges and universities. The high school offers a four year visual art curriculum and a variety of advanced and individual band courses. Extra-curricular activities and clubs include: The Art Club, The Mentorship Program, Drama Productions, the musical performance group The Geneva Image, choir and band activities, and the Academic Bowl Club.



Staffing

The gifted program is directed by a district coordinator of gifted services. The teaching staff includes one gifted intervention specialist at the elementary level who serves

all four buildings and also teaches the junior high grade 7 gifted reading class. In the Junior high School, Highly Qualified Teachers serve as the instructors for other gifted subjects. At the high school, highly qualified teachers teach the enriched, advanced placement, and duel credit courses.



The Selection Process

The Geneva Gifted Program follows the guidelines for identification under division (A), (B), (C), or (D) of section 3324.03 of the Revised Code.

The identification process is a two part process which involves the initial screening, and then the actual identification phase. The initial screening involves the review and survey of district wide abilities tests and standard achievement test scores. The actual identification and the ultimate selection of program participants is then completed as prescribed in Board policy aligned with Ohio rules. This process involves testing for advanced ability and specific academic achievement. Assessment practices allow equal access to those qualified students regardless of their native language or disability condition.

Additional information about board policy and procedures regarding the identification for gifted students can be found in these district publications:

- *Notification for Parents: Assessment, Instruments Used for Gifted Identification.*
- *Information for Parents: District Policy and Plan for the Identification Of and Services for Children Who Are Gifted*

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Gifted Programs



The Geneva Area City Schools

Educational Program Options for the Gifted Child

Mission

The mission of the Geneva Schools Gifted Programs is to provide challenging and stimulating learning activities that engage gifted students in unique courses that supplement, elaborate and extend the general core curriculum normally offered to their typically developing peers.

Mary Zappitelli - Superintendent
Brett Horvath – Gifted Coordinator
Stacy Kaufman - Gifted Instructor