

What Enrichment Activities are Provided for Elementary Students?



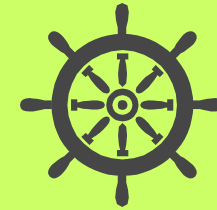
Thanks to parents like you and the support of organizations such as the Midview Elementary PTA, the Midview Endowment Fund, the Ross Challenge Grants, and fund raisers, a variety of enrichment opportunities throughout the year augment the curious minds of our students. We do not have room to capture all the opportunities, but some of these activities include:

- Principal / Student Advisory Council—This group meets monthly to work on issues in the building and come up with new concepts for better communication between staff and students.
- The Lego Olympiad—Participants are judged in categories such as originality, functionality and teamwork.
- Video Production.
- The Daily Math Challenge.
- Design-an-Ad and Editorial Contest with the Chronicle Telegram.
- 6th Grade Band.
- 5th Grade guitar.
- 4th Grade recorder.
- 4th and 5th Grade Christmas musical.
- Junior Achievement.
- *Scholastic News* 2,006 Minutes Reading Program.
- Reading Challenge—The class who reads the most pages of their choosing in two weeks are rewarded with a pizza party.
- The Flat Stanley project.
- Science Project Presentations.
- Book Fairs in the Spring and Fall.
- Mathematics League Competition.
- Math Mania at Lorain County Community College for 15 top scoring students in the Math League Competition for 5th and 6th graders.
- National Current Events League Competition.
- WordMasters Challenge Competition.
- Young Author Program.
- Served G/T sixth graders in language arts participate in a Mock Trial at the Justice Center in Elyria. This year it is May 5.
- Young Audiences of Greater Cleveland Artist in Residence Program.
- Various visits to art museums, plays, and orchestral performances.
- Visits to the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, National History Museum, Science Museum, and Western Reserve Historical Society.
- COSI Science Assemblies and Club Invention.
- Sixth grade Student Council representatives attend the Lorain County Academic Fair.
- Grades 3—6 participate in the County Spelling Bee.

and much, much more!

Books for Parents of Gifted Children

- [Growing Up Gifted](#) by Barbara Clark
- [When Gifted Kids Don't Have All the Answers](#) by Jim Delisle, Ph.D. and Judy Galbraith, M.A.
- [It's O.K. to be Gifted or Talented!](#) by Joel Engel
- [On Being Gifted](#) by participants in the National Student Symposium on the Education of Gifted and Talented
- [Conceptions of Giftedness](#) edited by Robert J. Sternberg and Janet E. Davidson
- [How the Gifted Brain Learns](#) by David A. Sousa



Expecting More
Achieving More

Special points of interest:

- Students take the IOWA and CogAT tests to identify giftedness
- Midview provides support through the Resource Room Program and Differentiated Instruction
- The Midview website has information specifically targeted to parents of gifted students

Inside this issue:

Gifted Criteria	2
Services for Reading and Math	2
Inside Story	2-3
Top Websites for Kids	3
Gifted Programs at Midview	3
The WEP	4
Additional Resources	4

Gifted and Talented FAQ's

A Publication for Midview Parents

Volume 1, Issue 1

April 2006

Midview Local School District

Answers to Your Frequently Asked Questions



At the March 21st Midview Elementary PTA meeting, I met with parents about differentiated opportunities for students who have been identified as Gifted and

suggested reading for parents who have a gifted child, reading lists for students to explore in their free time (this is great especially for spring and summer break!), and websites for parents and their children to visit together to extend learning into the home after school hours.

Talented. After some time together, it became clear that parents would appreciate increased communication. This newsletter was developed to help inform parents. It is important to emphasize that we strive to meet the needs of all students. To this end, it is important for parents to form a partnership with us to extend learning opportunities at home.

We hope you find this information useful as we work together to enrich and support your child. I use "we" because Ms. Fountain, Mrs. Hamilton, Mr. Laubacher, Mrs. Wolf and Mrs. Gadd all contributed to this publication.

If you have additional questions, please contact me via e-mail at: cpugh@midviewk12.org or call (440) 926-3737.

In addition, this publication features

What are the criteria that determine gifted classification?

Students take the Cognitive Test of Ability (CogAT) and the IOWA Test. The CogAT identifies giftedness in cognitive ability and provides information on the level of development of general and specific reasoning and verbal skills of a student. The IOWA Test identifies areas of specific academic giftedness in mathematics, language arts, social studies, and science.

To qualify for gifted services, a student must score in the gifted range on both the CogAT and IOWA. On page 2 is a more detailed explanation of gifted services.

Some students are academically talented. These students scored on the gifted range exclusively on the IOWA. Students with specific academic strengths in reading or math are offered differentiated opportunities. At the elementary levels, science and social studies curricula differentiate themselves because new concepts are being taught. As a result, no direct services are offered in these areas.

A PowerPoint presentation which provides more detailed information is available for you to view at www.MidviewK12.org.

Top Websites for Kids

KidsCom
www.kidscom.com/index1.htm
 Games, Adventure, Chat & Buzz, Make Friends, Cool Stuff, and Create are just some of the options provided by this site.

National Geographic for Kids
www.nationalgeographic.com/kids/

Bartleby.com
<http://www.bartleby.com/>
 This website provides free access to a variety of references from dictionaries, encyclopedias, and thesauri. Bartleby also includes a search engine for literature, verse, and quotations.

Dictionary.com
www.dictionary.com
 This website provides standard definitions as well as links to Thesaurus.com and other reference materials. This site also features other language dictionaries and a Word of the Day. The Language Resources contains a Grammar Usage and Style section that is also helpful for understanding how words are used.

Merriam-Webster Online
www.m-w.com
 This website provides both free and premium services involving dictionary and thesaurus searches. This site also features a Word of the Day, Word Games, and Word to the Wise, a brief column that addresses the use of language in everyday life.

Kids' Page
www.funbrain.com
 Math Arcade, Reading Arcade, Playground, All Games, Flash Arcades, Classic Funbrain, Web Books & Comics are just some of the options offered on this site.
 *You will need to create a password for this site.

Kid's Discovery
<http://kids.discovery.com/>

What services are offered for Reading and Math?

Students who score in the gifted range on both the CogAT and IOWA receive the following services:

Examples of Service for Reading and Language Arts:

- The Gifted Intervention Specialist (GIS) provides a novel study and supplemental material for students to use during Guided Reading time in the classroom.
- The GIS assigns a goal to the students for the week. Students log their progress in their reading guide. Students are accountable to show work that equals the amount of time given in the classroom for Guided Reading.
- The GIS meets with the reading group once a week during the time scheduled for reading to discuss the weekly goal.

Examples of Service for Math:

- Students have the opportunity to complete the guided practice or new concept questions for the day. If the student completes these problems with 100% accuracy, he or she is excused from the lesson. In place of teacher-led instruction, the student works on the math enrichment activity.
 - In grades 3 and 4, the student completes the guided Saxon math lesson during calendar time. If the score is 100%, the student then works on enrichment Math.
 - In grades 5 and 6, the student completes the Saxon math skill set during bell work. If the score is 100%, the student then works on enrichment Math.
- If the student doesn't complete the skill set with 100% accuracy, he or she follows teacher-led instruction and completes the homework for that section.

What are the gifted programs that Midview offers?

Midview provides support through the *Resource Room Program* and through *Differentiated Instruction* within the regular classroom

A *Resource Room Program* is similar to pullout-programs but includes an expanded role for the classroom teacher especially as a facilitator. In addition, the program is more flexible, so that students who are served may change regularly, made possible through the program's focus on individualized activities.

Differentiated Instruction within the regular classroom program is provided by the child's regular classroom teacher, along with Gifted Intervention support. This program features a clustering of gifted students into one classroom when possible. This option is helpful in discouraging elitism and other controversies within the classroom.

What is a cluster group?

A cluster group consists of 4 to 6 highly capable students who share similar academic needs. These students scored within the cognitive range on the CogAT coupled with similar subject area achievement. The building principal and the Gifted Intervention Specialist (GIS) meet to determine cluster placement at each grade level.

What is differentiated instruction?

Students who are identified talented in academic areas are offered differentiated instructional opportunities. Offering curriculum at the student's level of need, curriculum is modified in content, process, product and/or environment. The classroom teacher provides differentiated instruction with GIS support.

Does my gifted child have a Written Education Plan (WEP)?

Yes, each student served in the GIS program has a written education plan. Once again, this is a student who scored in the gifted range on both the CogAT and IOWA. The Gifted Intervention Specialist keeps a student portfolio of work samples. Student-teacher conferences are held each semester, and completed student packets are sent home.

How are parents notified about services that are being offered to their student?

Parents can get this information from their child's classroom teacher.

How can I see my child's portfolio?

An opportunity to view your child's portfolio will be available at the end of the school year. You must contact Jodi Wolf, Midview's Gifted Intervention Specialist to schedule a time. This year's viewing times are as follows:

- North Elementary Students: May 30
- East Elementary Students: May 31
- West Elementary Students: June 1

All reviews will be held at North Elementary. Please submit your request by email to jwolf@midviewk12.org or telephone (440) 748-5353 and leave a voice message by May 22nd so that we may prepare for your visit. Thank you!

How Do I Get More Information?

The **Midview Local School District website** is a wonderful resource for parents, providing news throughout the district, staff contact information, lunch menus, board meeting agendas and minutes, and a wealth of other details that can be helpful to you as a Midview parent.

To support our parents of gifted children, we have created an area on the website just for you. Simply go to www.MidviewK12.org and click on the "Parents" link.

Some of the information you'll find under "Gifted" includes:

- An expanded list of Websites for Kids;
- A PowerPoint presentation about Gifted and Talented programming in Midview and the State of Ohio;
- The Newberry Award Winning books for ages 9-12; and
- An electronic version of the *Children's Notable Reading List* published by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC).

Visit our website today and **Learn More!**

Top Websites for Kids

Internet Virtual Library
<http://www.ipl.org/div/kidspace/>
 There are Math, Science and Social Studies links galore! The site has a virtual library that allows the students to read books. Some of the stories are interactive.

Yahooligans
www.yahooligans.com
 Around the World, School Bell, Arts & Entertainment, Science & Nature, Computers & Games, Sports & Recreation, and Music are just some of the options offered on this site.

PBS.ORG
<http://pbskids.org/>

ThinkQuest
<http://thinkquest.org/library/index.html>
 Innovative learning sources for students.

Brain Teasers
<http://www.eduplace.com/math/brain/index.html>
 Try your hand at a monthly math brainteaser. There's a new question for your grade level each week.

<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/kids/braint.htm>

<http://www.puzzlemaker.com/>

Gifted Resources
www.hoagiesgifted.org
 One of the best resources out there!

www.oagc.com
 Ohio Association for Gifted Children

www.aegus.org
 Association for the Education of Gifted Underachieving Students

<http://www.nagc.org/>
 National Association for Gifted

Homework Helpers
www.ohiokids.org
 Provides a link for help with homework.

Learning Styles
www.d.umn.edu/student/loon/acad/strat/lrnsty.html