



WINCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

338 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 338 • WINSTED, CT 06098
TELEPHONE: 860-379-0706; FAX: 860-738-0638
MELONY BRADY-SHANLEY - SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

PROPOSAL

Gifted and Talented Program at Pearson School

OBJECTIVE: To further, provide a continuum of services for all students within Winchester Public Schools.

THEORY OF ACTION: IF we provide students with advanced programmatic opportunities, we WILL increase overall academic performance and further enhance our continuum of services to the educational community.

JUSTIFICATION: Currently, WPS has multiple offerings for students that need academic/behavioral learning support Pre-K to grade 12. The programming options include Student Resource Centers, Social Skills Support Groups, Autism Classroom, Multi-Handicapped Classroom, and beginning January of 2018 at the Gilbert School an Overage, Under Credit Program. While 90% of our students meet success with an inclusive, grade-level classroom experience, 5% of our students are not being served by the continuum of support services currently offered. To that end, this proposal seeks to address the 5% of students that are unclassified, gifted and talented.

Whole-District Service Breakdown

90% - Inclusive, Grade Level Classroom Experience
Inquiry-based Instructional Model

5% - Student Support Services Experience
Programmatic Support Instructional Model (program specific)

5% - Gifted and Talented Experience
Project-Based, Inquiry Instructional Model with a focus on Advanced STEAM

STATE LAW: The identification of gifted and talented children is required under Connecticut special education law. Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) Section 10-76d(a)(1) states "...each local or regional board of education shall provide the professional services requisite to the identification of school-age children requiring special education, identify each such child within its jurisdiction, determine the eligibility of such children for special education pursuant to sections 10-76a to 10-76h, inclusive, prescribe suitable educational programs for eligible children, maintain a record thereof and make such reports as the commissioner may require...":

RESEARCH: According to a recent report on high-achieving students, more than 7 in 10 teachers of these students surveyed noted that their brightest students were not challenged or given a chance to "thrive" in their classrooms.

Several longitudinal studies have shown that gifted programs have a positive effect on students' post-secondary plans. For example, studies found that 320 gifted students identified during adolescence who received services through the secondary level pursued doctoral degrees at more than 50X the base rate expectations. In a follow-up report on the same study participants at age 38, 203 participants, or 63%, reported holding advanced terminal degrees (master's and above). Of these, 142 (44%) held doctoral degrees and 8 of these 142 had more than one doctoral degree.

BETTER TOGETHER – EVERYONE, EVERYDAY.

www.winchesterschools.org

WHO: Multi-age, grades four through six.

LOCATION: Pearson Elementary School

TIMELINE: Student data analysis during the spring and summer of 2018. Program start on October 1, 2018.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: Must be enrolled in either fourth, fifth, or sixth grade. Must score in the top five percent of students in said grade level on NWEA Math, NWEA Reading, SBAC Reading, SBAC Mathematics. Third-grade students' scores will be analyzed for entry in the fourth grade.

ENTRY PROCESS:

1. Student takes normed exam and scores in the top five percent of their grade level;
2. Student receives recommendation from their previous grade level teacher;
3. Initiation of a PPT1 to review and test student;
4. Determination of admission via PPT1 process;
5. Parent signs enrollment form and provides support for entry.

YEAR TO YEAR ENROLLMENT: On a yearly basis, student performance data will be reviewed. Student must maintain exemplary educational performance on norm referenced assessments along with strong daily instructional performance.

PROJECTED STUDENT ENROLLMENT: If you take the top five percent on four test measures, we are looking at approximately four to five students per grade level. Total participation is estimated at 15 students.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE: One full day per week. Students will be pulled from their regular education classrooms to participate in a full-day Gifted and Talented Experience.

TIME	COURSE	TEACHER
8:30 AM	Advanced Reading	Myra Desroches (Reading Coach)
9:30 AM	Advanced Visual Arts	Susana Martinez-Bauer (Art Teacher)
10:30 AM	Advanced Engineering and Science	Rachael Manzer (STEAM Instruction Specialist)
11:30 AM	Advanced Writing	Rosie Fields (Dean of Students)
12:30 PM	Lunch	
1:30 PM	Advanced Mathematical Practices	Lori Synder (Math Instructional Specialist)
2:30 PM	Instrumental and Music Technology	Jackie Petriello (Music Teacher)

Advanced Reading – Advanced Reading concepts and book studies completed through a blogging website designed to have students digitally collaborating on literature analysis.

Advanced Visual Arts – Technology-based visual arts programming designed to have students explore art through digital graphics and design.

Advanced Engineering and Science – Inquiry-based engineering and problem-solving routed in the principals of engineering. Students will also explore the foundations of rocketry and the math associated.

Advanced Writing and Debate – A technology-rich creative writing and research process for students to research, inform, and debate on current topics within STEAM.

BETTER TOGETHER – EVERYONE, EVERYDAY.

www.winchesterschools.org

Advanced Mathematical Practices – Inquiry-based mathematics focused on the concept of “modeling” mathematical understanding. Will focus on the explanation/justification of concept understanding. All math will be instructed through the concept of STEAM.

Advanced Instrumental – Instrumental lessons and music technology will be provided to students. They will work on their skill development and ultimately produce, compose and craft music using their guitar and digital music production skills.

STAFFING: No additional staffing will be needed. All Instructional Specialist in the district will give one hour of their time to instruct their designated course. The music and art teachers’ scheduled will be adjusted to provide this instruction at Pearson School.

BUDGET:

COURSE	AMOUNT
Advanced Reading	\$1,000
Advanced Visual Arts	\$2,000
Advanced Engineering and Science	\$2,000
Advanced Writing	\$1,000
Advanced Mathematical Practices	\$2,000
Instrumental – Guitar	\$2,000
Total Cost	\$10,000

PROGRAMMATIC GOALS:

1. To ensure that Winchester Public Schools offers a continuum of services to all students;
2. To provide a unique programmatic program that is not offered in the local school system rooted in STEAM education;
3. To ensure that our students growth scores increase on norm-referenced standardized assessments.