

WVSD INTELLECTUALLY GIFTED PROGRAM

- WVSD INTELLECTUALLY GIFTED PROGRAM * WATER VALLEY, MISSISSIPPI* 38965 *
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CHALLENGE

ABOUT OUR GIFTED PROGRAM

Welcome to Challenge, the Gifted Education Program of the WVSD. We serve intellectually gifted students in grades two through six at our Davidson Elementary School campus. Challenge provides multiple and varied opportunities for students to investigate and integrate process skills into their lives. Gifted Education students are encouraged and supported in a risk-free learning environment to maximize and realize their unique potentials. The Challenge curriculum is developed from the 2017 Mississippi Department of Education's Intellectually Gifted Outcomes and Scope and Sequence.

Mission –The mission of the Water Valley School District gifted program is to provide challenging, qualitatively different, educational experiences directed to the unique needs of the intellectually gifted students and to instill in them a life-long love of learning.

Goals and Objectives:

- To provide an equitable identification process for gifted students, which is inclusive and meets requirements as outlined in state regulations
- To provide a gifted learning environment that allows gifted students regular opportunities to interact with intellectual peers
- To provide challenging learning experiences in an environment that recognize the multiple talents, challenges, and cultural diversity of the district's population
- To provide a challenging, differentiated curriculum and teaching strategies that address the intellectual, cognitive, and affective needs of the gifted learner
- To focus on student's interests, strengths, and learning styles to encourage a life-long love of learning
- To provide opportunities for students to develop competency in creativity, critical thinking, information literacy, communication, affective and success skills through MDE required outcomes and objectives

CHALLENGE OUTCOMES

Thinking Skills – Students will use problem-solving techniques to analyze and reflect logically and realistically.

Creativity – Students will use innovative exploration to modify personal ideas in a safe learning environment by experimenting and taking creative risks to be different.

Information Literacy - Students will investigate meaningful topics to discover in-depth knowledge and use a variety of resources.

Affective Skills - Students will develop self-acceptance and demonstrate responsibility for personal growth along with awareness of personal and cultural diversity.

Communication – Students will develop the ability to communicate their learning through multiple forms of communication.

Success Skills– Students will explore their individual learning styles and multiple intelligences to reveal ways in which they can most effectively serve their community and fellow man.

Identification Process—WVSD follows the MDE Gifted Regulations referral process, guidelines, and criteria on all referral measures.

The process of formal identification of IG students begins in the first grade and continues through sixth grade. Students may be referred by a teacher, administrator, counselor, parent, peer, self, or any other person having reason to believe the student may be intellectually gifted. Additionally, all first and third* grade students in the WVSD

are screened in the spring of each school year for the gifted studies.

*Beginning Spring 2018

The WVSD utilized the following as referral criteria:

- Group measure of intelligence
- Published characteristics of giftedness measure
- Published characteristics of creativity
- Published characteristics of leadership.
- Existing measure of individual intelligence

test administered by a licensed examiner.

To obtain a referral form or to inquire of the WVSD's Intellectually Gifted policies and procedures including referral, eligibility requirements, reevaluations and/or dismissal, contact the Director of Gifted Education located at WVSD Central Office or visit the district' website at www.wvsonline.com

The State of Mississippi defines Intellectually Gifted students as "those children and youth who are found to have exceptionally high degree of intelligence as documented through the identification process.

More information about gifted children and gifted programs can be found at:

- **The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies** – The Center was established at USM in 1979 and provided services for children and youth in grades k-12. www.usm.edu/gifted.
- **Hoagies Gifted Education Page** – Offers resources, article, books, and links for parents, educators, counselors, administrators and other professionals, and for kids and teens. www.hoagiesgifted.org.
- **Mississippi Association for Gifted Children (MAGC)** Founded by parents and teachers in 1974 MAGC is a non-profit organization that serves as a public advocate for gifted children and youth in the state of Mississippi. MAGGC is the only state level organization specifically for the gifted. <http://magcweb.org>.
- **National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC)** NAGC is an organization for parents, teachers, and other professionals united to address the unique development, advocacy and communication. www.nagc.org.
- **Mississippi Department of Education (MDE)** Gifted Regulations, Standards, Outcomes, Scope and Sequences can be located on this site under Advance Learning and Gifted Program. www.mde.k12.ms.us/ESE/ALGP.