

Woodridge School District 68
Office of Teaching and Learning
Role of Elementary Gifted Specialist
Fact Sheet

FAQs

Q: Will the gifted specialist only work with cluster group teachers at the elementary level?

A: No, the gifted specialist will work with any teacher to increase differentiation and higher level thinking skills in the classroom. The gifted specialist will co-teach and co-plan with any teacher that requests assistance.

Q: Will the gifted specialist take DEB groups from all grade levels at the elementary level?

A: No, the gifted specialist will take DEB groups consisting of identified students in grades 3/4, and 5/6. The gifted specialist may take a group in the 1/2 DEB, however, this group ***should not*** be the highest group. The goal at the first and second grade level is for the gifted specialist to “identify and develop talent.” This is especially important for students from diverse populations who may not show their need on typical assessments. This will be done with the KOI and the “Planned Experiences.”

Q: Will the gifted specialist teach a gifted math class?

A: Yes, the gifted specialist will teach the gifted 6th grade math class. The Gifted Specialist will also collaborate with the 3rd, 4th & 5th grade math teachers to help meet the needs of students identified as needing gifted services in math. This may be in the form of collaboration, push in, or any other way to work together.

The elementary gifted specialist is both a teacher of students needing gifted services and a resource for other teachers.

- As a teacher, the gifted specialist will teach gifted students during the differentiated engagement block (DEB); and he/she will co-teach in the general education classroom with the classroom teacher.
- As a resource, the gifted specialist will collaborate with teachers to help them differentiate instruction in all curricular areas.

Gifted specialists will provide direction, time, encouragement and resources to gifted students to maximize their potential. This will be accomplished during DEB, in the classroom by collaborating with teacher, in the classroom by pushing in and working with the classroom teacher, and in other ways.

Gifted specialists will collaborate with teachers to plan and implement differentiated, enriched instruction for students requiring gifted services. Any collaboration will occur during the mid-day collaboration or other designated, or mutually agreed upon times.

Gifted specialists will deliver a specialized curriculum for identified students during DEB in grades 3-6. Gifted specialists will also deliver specialized instruction during 7/8 language arts, 7/8 social studies, 7/8 science and 6/7/8 math. Curriculum is being developed specifically to meet the needs of gifted students using the Rigorous Curriculum Design (RCD) process (Ainsworth, 2010), along with a newly developed district Gifted Curriculum Framework. This framework includes: acceleration, complexity, depth, challenge and creativity in content, process and/or product. More information about this can be found on the *Gifted Curriculum Framework Fact Sheet*.

Gifted specialists will collaborate with teachers to develop high level thinking skills and problem solving abilities of all students; high level thinking includes Bloom’s Taxonomy (revised) and Webb’s Depth of Knowledge. Lessons may be co-taught in the classroom and/or developed during collaboration.

Gifted specialists will provide appropriate staff development for faculty and administration in the areas of identification of and instruction delivery for gifted students.

Gifted specialists will work with K, 1, 2 grade teachers to deliver “planned experiences” to help identify talent. They will also observe in K, 1, & 2 using the Kingore Observational Inventory (KOI). This helps identify and develop talent in those grades.

The gifted specialists will deliver information to parents of students receiving gifted services. This will include, but is not limited to, student performance and needs as well as general program information. The gifted specialists will share information during parent teacher conferences; they may meet with the parents individually, or with the classroom teacher. Additionally, they will maintain a website, share information during curriculum night, and through other means.

Gifted specialist will also be responsible for preparing the necessary forms for identification including the Student Growth Plans.