

**Leadership Prep School
Gifted and Talented
Program**

General Information

Individuals often demonstrate their gifts and talents in many ways; one individual may possess exceptional academic talents and another may be an exceptional artist, musician, athlete, or performer. Leadership Prep School's Gifted Program is designed for the student who demonstrates the need for advanced academic challenges and for opportunities to develop his/her creative thinking. Leadership Prep School's Gifted Program may not meet the needs of students whose gifts and talents are in areas other than advanced academics unless the student participates in the various fine arts classes that are currently offered.

Demonstrating academic gifts and talents often is developmental, so not all gifted and talented students exhibit the need for advanced academic challenges at the same point in their education. Furthermore, some gifted and talented students excel in one area yet require grade level instruction in other areas. The younger the student is, the greater the possibility that his/her skills are developing at different rates in different subject areas. As the child ages, these differences often are minimized through instruction, life experiences, and/or maturity. It is possible that a young student does not develop the skills needed for success in the gifted program until later in his/her school experience, a relatively common occurrence among kindergartners and first graders. For these students, the issue may not necessarily be one of giftedness, but may be an issue of timing given general classroom performance and/or the expectations of the gifted program. Consequently, Leadership Prep School allows students to be assessed for the gifted program at any grade level. Parents considering having their child assessed for the gifted program should reflect on their child's overall educational needs, intellectual curiosity, degree of self-motivation, task commitment, willingness to work independently, awareness that tasks sometimes have more than one correct solution, and comfort with connections between language arts, history, science, and math.

Teacher referral is not required for the gifted program's assessment. Referrals may be initiated by the parent, the teacher, or the student, or someone else. This packet includes an explanation of the assessment process, and an overview of the gifted program's curriculum. If you decide to have your child assessed for the gifted program, please complete the information in the Gifted Referral Packet, and return it to school by the due date.

Assessment and Services Timeline

Referral forms must be submitted to Hope Angell by the date and time indicated on the bottom of the Referral Information page.

All tests administered are conducted at the student's campus during the regular school day.

*Kindergartners are assessed in January. Assessment results are sent home in February and then services begin.

*Students in all other grades are administered assessments in the fall. Services begin the fall semester.

Gifted and Talented Assessments and What They Mean

Decisions regarding participation in the Gifted and Talented program are based upon an abundance of information gathered during the assessment process, including both standardized test scores and behavioral data provided by the parent and the teacher. The scores reflect specific academic skills and abilities related to the expectations of successful gifted students. A campus committee consisting of at least three individuals reviews the results and the behavioral data to make participation decisions. Only assessment data gathered from Leadership Prep School administered tests are utilized in making these decisions. Gathering information from identical sources allows a common standard to be used when measuring student abilities. In general, LPS seeks to serve students who are performing or show the potential to perform at or above the second standard deviation from the mean on these standardized tests. Test results and/or assessment information from outside practitioners, clinicians, and/or psychologists are not admissible.

Ability tests measure students' ability to learn. Ability scores are considered a representation of the ability to learn new tasks or solve problems, especially in the absence of direct instruction. These are important skills in the gifted program since much of the instruction is abstract, open-ended, and student-directed. Students are expected to make complex connections in his/her reasoning and to work and think independently.

Achievement tests measure what students have learned.

Leadership Prep School will administer the following assessments to determine the need for gifted services:

- Ability in specific domains (Verbal and Quantitative)
Cognitive Ability Tests - Verbal & Quantitative (CogAT)
- Reasoning or Fluid intelligence
Cognitive Ability Tests - Nonverbal (CogAT)
- Achievement in specific academic areas
Measure of Academic Progress (MAP)

Scores are sent home as soon as they are released to the school and are shared with your child's classroom teacher. The goal of gifted assessment is to gather important information not only about **what** a student **knows**, but **how** a student **learns**. **Please note. Leadership Prep School does not support test preparation courses and/or materials as they frequently skew test results making it far more difficult to determine appropriated placement.**

I. Referral Stage

- A. Students in Kindergarten and up may be referred
- B. Students may refer themselves or be referred by parent, teacher, or administrator
- C. Students in gifted programs in other school districts will be automatically screened for the gifted program in Leadership Prep School (referral forms should be completed for this to occur)
- D. Referral forms are on our website
- E. A completed Parent Referral Form and Parent Inventory are required prior to screening

II. Screening Stage

- A. Students who were previously identified as gifted in another school district should submit recent standardized test scores.
- B. If test scores meet the district's criteria, then additional testing is not always necessary but MAP may need to be taken.
- C. In situations where there are no recent test scores, the student will be included in the Leadership Prep School GT testing
- D. Screening Instruments
 - 1. MAP Test
 - 2. CogAT
 - 3. Parent Inventory
 - 4. Educator Inventory
 - 5. Student Grades

III. Identification Stage

- A. School-appointed committee of trained GT teachers and the GT Coordinator meet to determine the placement of students in GT
- B. Each of the assessments completed/scored during the screening stage provide an overall view of the student
- C. Each of the assessments are of equal importance in determining whether or not a student meets the established school criteria

IV. Placement Recommendation Stage

- A. If a student qualifies for GT, a permission form to participate will be sent to the parents
- B. The parents must sign the permission form in order for the school to serve the child in the GT program

V. Appeals Process

- A. If a student does not qualify for GT, the parents will be notified in writing of the committee's decision
- B. A parent may appeal the decision of the committee by completing the required appeal forms and submitting the paperwork to the campus GT teacher within 14 days after receiving the assessment data
- C. Within 14 business days of receiving the appeal paperwork, the school's GT screening and placement committee will review the new information presented by the parent to determine if placement in GT is an appropriate educational setting for the student
- D. Parents will be noted of the decision made by this committee

Referral Deadlines

Leadership Prep School conducts open, rolling referral, meaning that any student may be referred at any time during the school year. However, we have specific assessment windows. First through 9th grade students are assessed in the fall for services that begin that semester. Kindergarten students are assessed in January for services to begin in March.

Students may be referred for the gifted program by their parents, teachers, counselors, principals, or by the students themselves. Students are assessed during the regular school day.

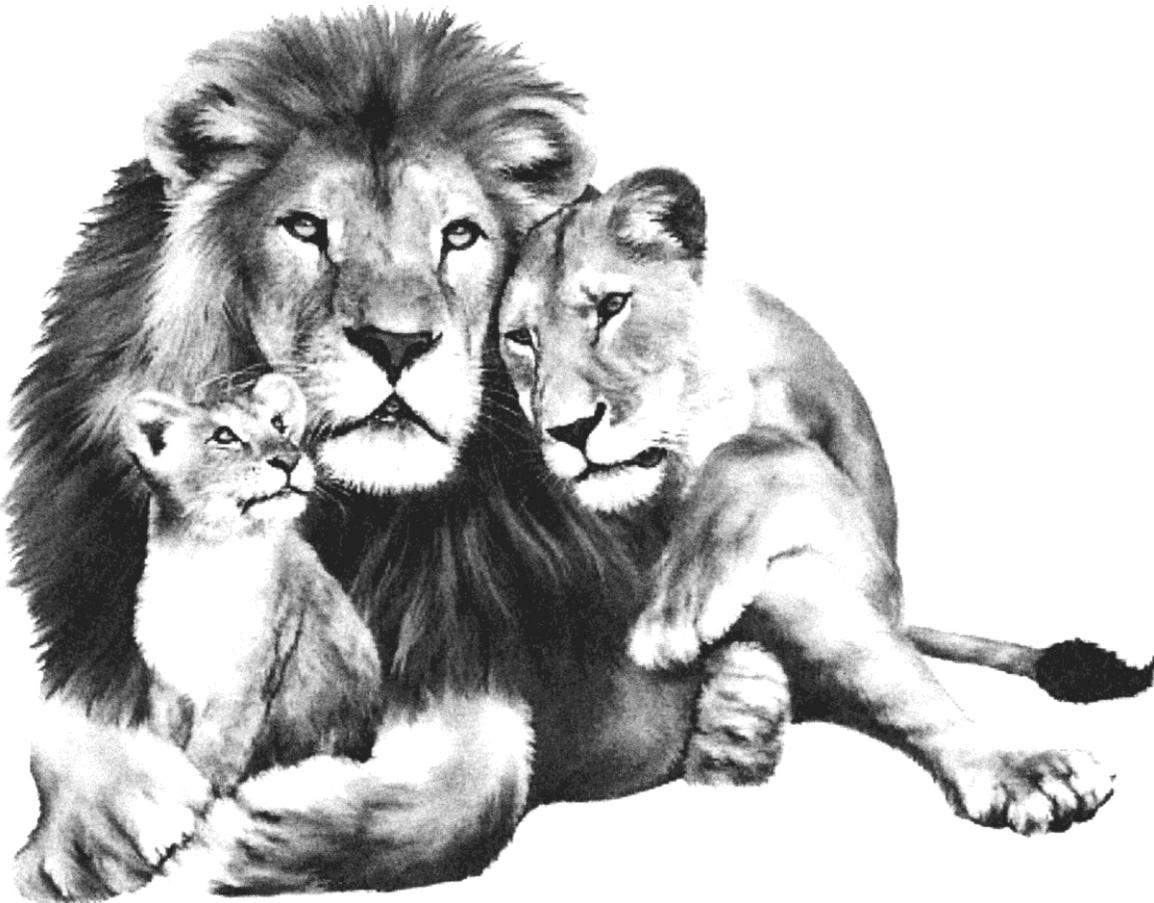
Kinder Referral Deadlines:

Last day in January

Grades 1-9 Referral Deadlines:

First Friday in October

Referral packets must be completed and returned to the gifted teacher by the appropriate deadline. Referrals received after the posted deadline will be held for the next year.



Candidate Instructions

To be evaluated for the gifted program, please follow these directions:

1. Complete the GT Referral Forms on the LPS website and discuss the information in it with your parent/guardian.
2. If you are interested, fill out the Student Self-Appraisal.
3. Ask your parent/guardian to complete the Student / Parent Referral Information and the Parent Observation Questionnaire.
4. Submit forms to the Hope Angell by the due date. At that time your records will be reviewed and additional testing will be scheduled as needed.
5. When all information has been collected, a committee will meet to consider your application. You will be notified in writing of your test results and the committee's decision.

It is your responsibility to see that these directions are followed. If you have any questions, please contact Hope Angell.

Students whose records are incomplete will not be evaluated.