



Highly Capable Programs

Program Descriptions & Referral Form

Bethel School District
Highly Capable Programs
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www.bethelsd.org/programs/highly_capable

Program Descriptions

Program Name	Grades Served	Brief Description
<i>Challenge</i>	1 st – 6 th	1-day-per week pull-out program.

Challenge serves approximately 250 qualified 1st-6th grade students living in the Bethel attendance area. Challenge is a one-day-a-week “pull-out” program. Students are bused from their home school to Shining Mountain Elementary, where they attend class with peers from other elementary schools. Buses return students to their home school at the end of the day.

While attending Challenge, students participate in creative problem solving through performance projects, puzzles, mind-benders and class activities. They work through a sequential math/logic program to increase math problem solving skills. They are “Challenged” to write more clearly and in greater depth, with a focus on fictional and research writing, as they study topics new to them. Topics might include ancient cultures, inventions, etc. They learn about art and artists and create their own works of art. Students learn to work and relate to other students with high abilities and stretch each other in a collaborative manner. These relationships often last many years. The goal of these activities is to “Challenge” students to think and work to their highest level.

Program Name	Grades Served	Brief Description
<i>Endeavour</i>	3 rd – 6 th	Full-time program

The Endeavour program is a full-day, full-week setting for highly capable students who may need more than 1-day per week highly capable services. Endeavour is currently located at Shining Mountain Elementary. There are two classrooms, a 3rd/4th grade split and a 5th/6th grade split. The typical path for students is to start the program in 3rd grade and have had prior experience in the *Challenge* program. Students who qualify are bused from their homes and back. In addition to meeting grade-level requirements, students learn new and higher-level concepts and produce high quality work.

***NOTE: There is a separate parent referral form for Endeavour that is due on May 1st. Students must be an existing or newly qualified Challenge student in order to be referred for placement into the Endeavour program.**

Program Name	Grades Served	Brief Description
<i>Junior High Honors*</i>	7 th – 8 th	Communication Arts / Social Studies block

Students in the 7th-8th grade who qualify (or have already qualified for an elementary highly capable program) are enrolled in Honors Humanities classes. The humanities – Social Studies and Communication Arts – are offered during the regular day. In the Honors program, students work in an enriched curriculum covering similar topics to that of regular classes, but at a faster pace and in more depth. Challenging activities engage highly capable students in their studies and foster peer relationships with other highly able students.

NOTE: Junior High Honors school students are also eligible for higher-level math courses. Placement in math courses is based on test scores and teacher recommendations and is not part of the highly capable testing. This acceleration of the math sequence can provide challenge for highly capable students and allow for students to participate in upper level math in high school.

Program Name	Grades Served	Brief Description
<i>High School Honors*</i>	9 th – 10 th	Communication Arts / Social Studies block

Students in 9th and 10th grade who qualify can enroll in Honors courses, which are taught in the areas of Social Studies and Communication Arts. These courses are more advance and fast paced. They can also continue in their accelerated math sequence.

Program Name	Grades Served	Brief Description
<i>Advanced Placement</i>	10 th -12 th	AP Courses in multiple subjects

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are offered at the high school level and available to all students that meet the pre-requisites. Class discussions, with highly able peers, provide thoughtful study on a variety of topics. These courses prepare students to take AP tests. If a student chooses to take an AP exam, and passes it at the appropriate level, they can receive college credit. AP courses are rigorous and challenging. Offerings are available in all major subject areas.

***NOTE:** Grades will be reconfigured in 2012-13 to 9th – 12th grade high schools and 7th – 8th grade junior highs. Program formats may be adjusted to meet the new grade level configuration. Look back to our website www.bethelsd.org/programs/highly_capable for updates on any program changes.

Referral Process

Who can initially refer students to highly capable testing?

Anyone may refer a student for testing for the highly capable program. Referrals can come from parents, teachers, school specialists, friends, family, community members, or even the student themselves. These forms are attached to this document and available at http://www.bethelsd.org/programs/highly_capable.

Referral Timeline

The referral forms (attached) for the 2012-13 school year placements are available online or in the school office November and December 2011.

Parent Referral Forms and Permissions

All parents (if not the originator of the referral form) must complete a Referral Form and give permission for the student to be tested and potentially placed in highly capable programs. The form is attached to this handout and available online at http://www.bethelsd.org/programs/highly_capable.

Teacher Referrals & Feedback Forms

Teachers complete a *Teacher Referral & Feedback Form* for every one of their students that have been referred for testing. These are available beginning mid November in each school office or online at http://www.bethelsd.org/programs/highly_capable.

All referral forms, parent permissions, and teacher referral forms are due to the school office by December 15.

Testing Process & Testing Dates **(for 2012-2013 Placement)**

Grades K & 1: Testing will take place at the student's school during the months of January or early February.

Grades 2 – 8: Referred students in grades 2 – 6 will be tested on a scheduled Saturday morning/early afternoon in a designated central location of the district. Parents will receive a postcard in the mail during in January with an assigned time and place for testing. Listed below is the designated Saturday testing dates and locations for grades 2-6:

Saturday, January 28 @ Camas Prairie Elementary	Saturday, February 4 @ North Star Elementary
<i>Participating Schools:</i> Camas Prairie Elk Plain Evergreen Frederickson Naches Trail Roy Spanaway Thompson. All Junior High Schools	<i>Participating Schools:</i> Centennial Graham Kapowsin Nelson North Star Pioneer Valley Rocky Ridge Shining Mountain

Assessments & Selection Process

To qualify for highly capable programs, the following assessments are used:

- Ability test scores:
 - *Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)*
 - Tests in Verbal, Quantitative, and Non-Verbal
 - For more information about the tests:
<http://www.riversidepublishing.com/products/cogAt/details.html#tests>
 - Qualifying students score in the 97th percentile or above in at least one area or students score in the 90th percentile on both Verbal and Quantitative tests.
- Achievement test scores
 - Grades K-3:
 - DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Early Literacy Skills): Students must score at benchmark level.
 - District Benchmark Assessments in Math and EasyCBM Math scores
 - Grades 4-8:
 - Measurements of Student Progress (MSP). Qualifying students must have met standard or exceeded standard on this state test.
- Creativity
 - Creativity is assessed through both teacher and parent referral and feedback forms

A *multi-disciplinary team* consisting of teachers, district administrator, and psychologist/other qualified practitioner trained in the interpretation of assessment results is convened to review the above mentioned data and make final selection decisions.

Notification

Student work on the CogAT often takes multiple weeks to be scored. Once results arrive in the district, the multi-disciplinary team must meet to make decisions. Schools and parents are tentatively schedule to be notified via mail by mid April. Once a student has qualified for highly capable programs, they do not need to test again. If parents have any questions about placement, they are directed to call the highly capable office at (253) 683-6952.

Retesting & Appeals

Re-testing: Students may re-test given the following conditions: ¹ It has been over 9 months since the student last tested and ² The student is enrolled in at least one grade level higher than when they last tested.

Appeals: Appeals are considered annually for students who did not meet the criteria. The Multi-disciplinary team will examine provided evidence of high ability and need for program placement. Parents must contact the Highly Capable office at (253) 683-6952 to receive an appeal form. The deadline for appeals is based on when parents receive notification letter. The notification letter will describe the timeline and process in more detail.

Out-side testing: Private testing as well as testing from other districts are accepted for review.

Transfer Students

Students who transfer in from out-of-district and have qualified in that district's highly capable program are not automatically enrolled. Test scores and placement letters from the other district may be used as long as they meet our placement criteria. A fall testing opportunity will be available for students who come new to use over the summer. Students who qualify for highly capable programs in the Bethel School District are placed pending room and availability.

Notice of Non-Discrimination/Title IX

The Bethel School District complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, or disability. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular activities. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the school district's Title IX/RCW 28A.260 compliance officer in the Human Resources Department at 253.683.6000, the Section 504/ADA staff coordinator at 253.683.6000, or the Section 504//ADA student coordinator at 253.683.6020. Their address is 516 176th St. East, Spanaway, WA 98387.

Characteristics of Gifted Children

Observing gifted characteristics is often difficult when we are dealing with obviously bright children. The chart below is helpful in seeing the subtle differences between the bright child and the gifted learner.

Bright Child	Gifted Learner
Knows the answers	Asks the questions
Is interested	Is highly curious
Is attentive	Is mentally and physically involved
Answers the questions	Discusses in detail, elaborates.
Top group	Beyond the group
Listens with interest	Shows strong feelings and opinions
Learns with ease	Already knows
6-8 repetitions for mastery	1-2 repetitions for mastery
Understands ideas	Constructs abstractions
Enjoys peers	Prefers adults
Grasps the meaning	Draws inferences
Is receptive	Is intense
Copies accurately	Creates a new design
Enjoys school	Enjoys learning
Absorbs information	Manipulates information
Technician	Inventor
Good memorizer	Good guesser
Enjoys straightforward, sequential presentation	Thrives on observant
Is alert.	Is keenly observant
Is pleased with own learning	Is highly self-critical

WHAT DOES HIGHLY CAPABLE MEAN?

Being Highly Capable means having extraordinary ability or potential in intellect, academic aptitude or creative thinking.

Some examples include:

- advanced vocabulary
- curiosity (asks endless questions)
- sophisticated sense of humor
- experiments with ideas
- advanced creativity
- perfectionist



**Bethel School District Highly Capable Program
REFERRAL FORM**

DIRECTIONS: Please separate this yellow form from the white informational packet and complete both the front & back. Return the completed yellow form to your child's school by **December 15, 2011**.

Challenge Program or Seventh & Eighth Grade Honors

NOTE: *The Endeavour Program requires an additional parent referral form due May 1. Students must be an existing or newly qualified Challenge student in order to be referred for placement into Endeavour.*

Student Information	
Student Name:	Current Grade:
School:	Teacher:

Person Completing this Referral
Name:
Relation to Student: <input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Other:

Parent Permission (only complete if you are the parent): I give my permission for testing and for possible placement in the Highly Capable Program.		
Parent Signature:	Date:	Student Birthdate:
Mailing Address (street, city, state zip):		

Please respond to the statements below by marking the number that best represents the student. Add any examples or comments in the third column. Additional information regarding a student's exceptional ability, achievement and/or creativity may be submitted with this application.

	Low		High			Comments
Constantly asks questions.	1	2	3	4	5	
Offers unusual responses.	1	2	3	4	5	
Likes to try new things.	1	2	3	4	5	
Has a keen sense of humor.	1	2	3	4	5	

Creates original ideas and products.	1	2	3	4	5	
Has many interests, hobbies and collections.	1	2	3	4	5	
Is bored with routine tasks.	1	2	3	4	5	
Learns quickly and easily.	1	2	3	4	5	
Uses advanced vocabulary.	1	2	3	4	5	
Enjoys complex tasks.	1	2	3	4	5	
Intense; gets totally into tasks or thoughts.	1	2	3	4	5	
Relates easily to adults and older peers.	1	2	3	4	5	
Sense of fairness.	1	2	3	4	5	

Additional Comments (if needed):

If you have any questions about completing this form or the testing process, you may contact the Bethel School District office of Assessment and Highly Capable Programs at (253) 683-6952.

*If you are new to the district and missed the testing period, please return completed form to:
 Brian Loffer, Director of Assessment & Highly Capable Programs, 516 176th St East, Spanaway, WA 98387