



# Knob Noster R-VIII School District

Critical Thinking/Gifted Education

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**Proud Past, Bright Future**

## PROCEDURES FOR SCREENING AND IDENTIFICATION OF ACADEMICALLY GIFTED STUDENTS

The definition of giftedness in Section 162.675, RSMo, indicates that gifted students are “those children who exhibit precocious development of mental capacity and learning potential as determined by competent professional evaluation to the extent that continued educational growth and stimulation could best be served by an academic environment beyond that offered through a standard grade level curriculum.” Missouri’s placement criteria requires that students score at or above the 95<sup>th</sup>tile on an individual intelligence test; at or above the 95<sup>th</sup>tile on norm referenced achievement tests and demonstrates outstanding ability in areas such as creative and productive thinking; advanced insight and problem solving.

In recognizing that the truly gifted student will benefit from differentiated educational opportunities, the identification of gifted students in the Knob Noster R-VIII Public School District will be made apparent to all personnel who have direct instructional contact. The district’s instructional staff will then provide appropriate opportunities, which challenge and develop the abilities of these students.

### **Referrals:**

Parents/Guardians and/or teachers may refer a student for the Critical Thinking Program. Upon receiving the request, a referral letter will be mailed home to the parent along with the Gifted and Talented Checklist for Parents developed by Michael Saylor. Simultaneously a referral letter will be provided to your student’s teacher along with the Gifted and Talented Checklist for Teachers also developed by Michael Saylor. These checklists will need to be completed and returned to the Critical Thinking Teacher for review. Once received the Critical Thinking Teacher will review your student’s file to verify your student is scoring at or above the 90<sup>th</sup>tile on screeners and assessments administered at the district level (ex: MAP, STAR, Wonders, Math in Focus). You will receive a summary of the checklists and verification of scores. At this time, you will be notified whether your student is eligible to move forward in the identification process.

### **Identification Requirements:**

If your student has met the criteria to move forward in the identification process, you will be asked to provide permission for your student to be evaluated. The district Critical Thinking teacher and a district process facilitator will serve as the diagnostic team during the screening and identification process, and will inform the parent/guardians concerning the results of group and individual testing. The procedures indicated below will be utilized in each attendance area.

Student eligibility to participate in the critical thinking program will be based on academic performance; mental ability; creativity, reasoning and problem solving ability as well as documented evidence of exceptional performance. Students in grades 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade are eligible for referral and identification.

### **Evaluations:**

The GATES-2 (Gifted and Talented Evaluation Scale) and SAGES-2 (Screening Assessment for Gifted Elementary and Middle School Students) assessments will be administered to identified students after the parent/guardian has signed and returned the permission to test. The requirements following must be met to move on in the identification process: 1) Creativity, Problem Solving and Reasoning Criteria-scores within the probable range or higher on the GATES in Creativity or SAGES Reasoning/Problem Solving score at or above 110 and 2) Achievement Criteria-SAGES scores at/or above the 95th% tile in Math/Science achievement and/or Social Studies/Communication Arts achievement. Students meeting these two requirements will move forward to the next level of testing which is the WISC (Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children). A student must score a Full Scale IQ or General Ability Index of 125 or above or 127 or above on the Stanford Binet Test to be eligible for the program. A student may also qualify if their Confidence Interval of 95% on the Full Scale IQ encompasses a 125 on the WISC or a 127 on the Stanford Binet. A summary of the evaluations will be provided. Staff will obtain parent permission for those students who are eligible for the Critical Thinking Program.

### **Alternative Screening for Learning Disabled Students:**

Students who meet the achievement and creativity/problem solving criteria scores and score 130 or higher on the verbal or performance sections of the WISC or Stanford Binet with 10 points or more of variance between the two sections will be included and placed for eligibility by their highest score in verbal or performance.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM FOR GIFTED**

While all classroom teachers are expected to continue to meet the instructional needs of their high ability students by providing instructional techniques geared to higher-level thinking and appropriate enrichment activities; the design of the critical thinking program is intended to provide an academic environment beyond that offered through the standard grade level curriculum.

It is recognized that the instruction presented in the critical thinking program would not replace classroom instruction or be “more of the same” approach. This program will be project oriented with the objective being the development of critical thinking skills through an emphasis on the process of critical thinking, creative thinking, research skills, logic, problem solving, organization, and task commitment in relation to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

### **Transfer Students**

Students who transfer from a district where they participated in a gifted education program will be considered for placement in the Knob Noster Critical Thinking Program upon receipt of and review of eligibility scores from the sending school. Enrollment in the Critical Thinking Program is dependent on the following: student records show that the student meets or exceeds the established criteria for placement in Knob Noster’s program; the program

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areas are similar and the parents' consent to the placement. Students not meeting this criterion will be referred and start the referral/identification process per Knob Noster guidelines.

**Location**

A Critical Thinking classroom will be available in each building within the Knob Noster R-VIII Public School District with class times set by the Critical Thinking teacher and building administrator.

If there are questions regarding this process, please reach out to:

Ms. Marissa Cochran, Critical Thinking Teacher [mcochran@knr8.net](mailto:mcochran@knr8.net)

Dr. Angela Rolofson, Director of Student Services [arolofson@knr8.net](mailto:arolofson@knr8.net) or 660-563-5597

