

Screening? The screening is completed one-on-one with your child during the school day, and takes about 45 minutes to complete. Results of the screening are typically sent home within a week of the screening with possible proposed next steps.

What are gifted services? Gifted is an education service provided to students that meet state criteria for gifted eligibility and support students with their strengths in the following areas: depending their knowledge, questioning, research, creativity, leadership, goal setting, and products/presentations.

Questions? Call the school at (727) 738-6483 and ask to speak with us or e-mail us. Mrs. Carrie Brown and Mrs. Alison Meleen
browncarr@pcsb.org and meleena@pcsb.org
Curtis Fundamental Elementary School
Gifted Program Teachers

State Criteria for Gifted Eligibility

Florida's Definition of "Gifted"

A student is determined to be eligible for gifted service as defined by current State Board of Education Rule 6A-6.03019, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Special Instructional Programs for Students Who Are Gifted. This rule states (1) "Gifted. One who has superior intellectual development and is capable of high performance. (2) Criteria for eligibility. A student is eligible for special instructional programs for the gifted if the student meets the criteria under paragraph (2) (a) or (b) of this rule. (a) The student demonstrates: 1. Need for a special program. 2. A majority of characteristics of gifted students according to a standard scale or checklist; and, 3. Superior intellectual development as measured by an intelligence quotient of two (2) standard deviations or more above the mean on an individually administered standardized test of intelligence." (b) "The student is a member of an under-represented group and meets the criteria specified in an approved school district plan. For the purpose of the rule, under-represented populations are defined as groups who are limited English proficient (LEP) or who are from a low socio-economic status (SES) family."

Myths About Gifted Students (from NAGC.org)

Myth: All Children Are Gifted

Truth: All children have strengths and positive attributes, but not all children are gifted in the educational sense of the word. The label "gifted" in a school setting means that when compared to others his or her age or grade, a child has an advanced capacity to learn and apply what is learned in one or more subject areas...Gifted does not connote good or better; it is a term that allows students to be identified for services that meet their unique learning needs.

Myth: Gifted Students Don't Need Help; They'll Do Fine On Their Own

Truth: Would you send a star athlete to train for the Olympics without a coach? Gifted students need guidance from well-trained teachers who challenge and support them in order to fully develop their abilities.

Myth: Gifted Students Are Happy, Popular, And Well Adjusted In School

Truth: Many gifted students flourish in their community and school environment. However, some gifted children differ in terms of their emotional and moral intensity, sensitivity to expectations and feelings, perfectionism, and deep concerns about societal problems

How to Support a Gifted Student at Home (from NAGC.org)

Parents, educators, and the broader community have a responsibility to support all children as they reach for their personal best. It is essential to support the growth and development of the whole gifted child including their intellectual, social, emotional, and physical domains. Parents & Caregivers

That support begins at home. Parents and caregivers are usually the first to identify a child's extraordinary gifts and talents. Parents recognize above norm abilities, interests, and passions that are different in other children they see. Being gifted often comes with challenges like asynchronous development or social and emotional challenges.

Parents can engage with their children to provide rich stimulation and learning experiences and discover ways to partner with schools and resources in the broader community to nurture their child's specialized learning needs.

Helpful Resources

National Association for Gifted Children Parent Resource Page
<http://www.nagc.org/resources-publications/resources-parents>

Gifted Guru Resources for Parents
<http://www.giftedguru.com/resources/resources-for-parents/>

Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted
<https://www.sengifted.org>

What is a Typical Gifted Day Like at Curtis for Students that Receive Gifted Services?

- Students start their day in their general education classrooms.
- They walk to their gifted classroom with other same grade level gifted program students.
- While at gifted, students take part in English Language Arts, Math, and Advanced Academics. Language Arts is focused around a unit (2019-2020's unit is Super Sleuths). Math is focused on deepening understanding of current grade level standards. Advanced Academics is focused on questioning, research, creativity, leadership, and goal setting.
- Students will have lunch and recess with their general education classmates.
- Students will be dismissed from their gifted classroom at dismissal time.

Gifted at Curtis FAQ

- Are there grades in gifted?

No, but students are scored periodically on their work to help students understand what was expected and how they performed in relation to what was expected. These scores may also factor into documented progress towards their Education Plan goals.

-Is there homework or projects in gifted?

Yes, but not every week. When such assignments are given, information will be communicated home about homework/project expectations via email/planners/notes home with fair time allowed to completed expected tasks.

-Will my child have to make up classwork they miss when they receive gifted services?

No. Gifted services in Pinellas County are viewed as 'in place of' educational services for the day, not 'in addition to'. Teachers may still assign the same homework as their peers based off of content the gifted program student was not present for, but the student cannot receive consequences for not fully completing the work if they do not understand the concepts of the homework that they were not present for that day they were in gifted. In addition, teachers may not send home missed classwork due to gifted services as required homework. They may, however, send home missed classwork as optional work to be completed, but the students cannot receive consequences for not completing the missed work as homework.

-Do parents of gifted program students attend conferences each grading period with the gifted teachers just like they attend conferences with the general education teacher?

No, there are no required conferences each grading period with us, but if you ever would like to schedule one, reach out to us anytime!

-What's the best way for parents to contact Curtis' gifted program teachers?

Email is preferred (Mrs. Brown browncarr@pcsb.org and Mrs. Meleen meleena@pcsb.org). Please include both our emails in the "To" portion of the email. Thank you!

Looking to Support Curtis' Gifted Program?

Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Meleen are grateful for all the time, energy, and support our families give our students and us all year long! If at any time you're interested in seeing our current classrooms' wishes, please visit tinyurl.com/CurtisGiftedWishList. Thank you so much!