What is talent development and creativity?
In addition to providing Gifted services to students identified as gifted, the Gifted and Talented teacher provides enrichment and creative thinking skills in the classroom. Talent groups are created to provide enrichment for students who show a need for more challenging work in their classroom. Creative and critical thinking skills are conducted as short activities in the classroom with the entire class.

Gifted Identification Process
1. Teachers or parents contact the Guidance Counselor to recommend a student for gifted services.
2. The Guidance Counselor will send home a notice of intent to screen the student.
3. Screening will be completed by the Gifted teacher, usually within 30 days.
4. After the screening is completed, a notification will be sent home and shared with the classroom teacher. A score in the 90th percentile or higher is referred for further testing and a score under 90% requires no further testing. However, if requested, a child can be re-screened after one year.
5. If the student is recommended for further evaluation, a licensed school psychologist will conduct an intelligence test. Upon completion, parents and the school will receive the full report. This can take up to 90 school days.
6. After the folder is complete with paperwork demonstrating a need for additional services, completed checklist of characteristics of giftedness, along with high IQ, the Eligibility Determining Committee will make a recommendation for placement.
7. If a student is found eligible, the parent, classroom teacher, and gifted teacher will hold a conference (EP meeting) to establish learning goals, objectives, and complete the required processes for the student to begin the program.

Melrose Elementary School
Gifted and Talented Program
2016-2017

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“As a society, we must be able to admire ability, to support ability, and to nurture ability. It must be socially acceptable to support genius that is intellectual as it is to support genius that is athletic.”

- Michael Clay Thompson

Gifted and Talented Schedule 2016-2017
- Monday - Maximo
- Tuesday - Maximo
- Wednesday - Creativity and Talent (alternate with Maximo)
- Thursday - Melrose
- Friday - Melrose

Gifted teacher will schedule:
- Parent & teacher meetings
- Student screenings
- Teacher support/consultation
- Educational Planning Meetings

All About Me
This is my 18th year of teaching. I have 15 years of classroom experience in Early Childhood and this is my 3rd year in Gifted. I attended the University of Florida have taught in Florida, Virginia, and Connecticut. I am a native Floridian also.
Each year, Pinellas Teachers of the Gifted choose a topic to offer challenge-based learning and problems solving, enriched vocabulary, promote creativity, develop critical thinking, and encourage leadership. This year we are doing Passports Around the World.
Encouraging Giftedness at Home

- Foster free play, exploration, creativity, and imagination
- Encourage entrepreneurship and independent thinking
- Allow your child to participate in real-life decisions
- Assign responsibilities and hold your child accountable
- Talk about current events and qualities of leaders
- Support your child’s interests with resources and a wide array of related experiences
- Enlist mentors willing to develop your child’s interest
- Expose your child to diverse forms of art and culture
- Show pride in your child’s efforts rather than abilities

Giftedness in the Classroom

- Make time for more intense and higher level learning by:
  - Allowing accelerated pacing through material
  - Pretesting or testing students out of units/topics
- **Cluster group gifted/top students** to enable them to do more complex work with their intellectual peers.
- **Differentiate** curriculum; use contracts and allow students to select their topic, project, or assessment.
- Allow students to work in their area of expertise with a higher grade level, or online learning.
- Contact your Gifted Program teacher for ideas and classroom support, and to request screening for students who you suspect may be gifted.

### A High Achiever... | A Gifted Learner...
---|---
Remembers the answer | Poses unforeseen questions
Is interested | Is curious
Generates advanced ideas | Generates complex, abstract ideas
Works hard to achieve | Knows without working hard
Is attentive | Is selectively mentally engaged
Answer the question in detail | Ponders with depth and multiple perspectives
Performs at the top of class | Is beyond the group
Responds with interest and opinions | Exhibits feelings and opinions from multiple perspectives
Learns with ease | Already knows
Needs 6-8 repetitions to master | Needs 1-3 repetitions to master
Enjoys the company of peers | Prefers the company of intellectual peers
Understands complex, abstract humor | Creates complex, abstract humor
Grasps the meaning | Infers and connects concepts
Completes assignments on time | Initiates projects and extensions of assignments
Is receptive | Is intense
Is accurate and complete | Is original and continually developing
Enjoys school often | Enjoys self-directed learning
Absorbs information | Manipulates information
Is a technician with expertise in field | Is an expert who abstracts beyond the field
Memorizes well | Guesses and infers well
Is highly alert and observant | Anticipates and relates observations
Is pleased with own learning | Is self-critical
Gets A’s | May not be motivated by grades
Is able | Is intellectual

What does it mean to be gifted?

“Gifted individuals are those who demonstrate outstanding levels of aptitude or competence in one or more domains. Domains include any structured area of activity with its own symbol system.”

-NAGC 2010

**Brain Science**

- Good nutrition and the absence of toxins has a positive effect on brain development.
- A variety of quality experiences from our earliest beginnings affect the neural patterns and sequences as they are forming.
- Feedback during the acquisition of knowledge and skills shapes cognition.
- An enriched environment and experiences facilitates the growth and expansion of intelligence.

**Additional Resources:**

- National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC)  
  [www.nagc.org](http://www.nagc.org)
- Florida Association for the Gifted (FLAG)  
  [www.flagifted.org](http://www.flagifted.org)
- CPALMS-Florida Gifted Standards  
- National Society for the Gifted and Talented  
  [www.nsgt.org](http://www.nsgt.org)
- Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG)  
  [www.sengifted.org](http://www.sengifted.org)