

NORTH MASON SCHOOL DISTRICT



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Dear Parents and Guardians,

The North Mason School District is committed to providing optimum learning opportunities for all students, including those who are highly capable or gifted. In an effort to identify these students and provide a more clearly articulated continuum of services, the North Mason School District tests all referred students and 2nd and 5th grade students who scored in the 90th percentile or better on the screener with the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) or other academic measures pending parent permission.

What does CogAT measure?

CogAT measures learned reasoning and problem-solving skills in three different areas: verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal. Reasoning skills develop gradually throughout a person's lifetime and at different rates for different individuals. The Verbal Battery measures flexibility, fluency, and adaptability in reasoning with verbal materials and in solving verbal problems. The Quantitative Battery measures flexibility and fluency in working with symbols and concepts and the ability to organize and give meaning to an unordered set of numerals and mathematical symbols. The Nonverbal Battery measures reasoning using geometric shapes and figures as well as inventing strategies for solving problems.

Why is the CogAT administered?

Highly capable students are identified using the CogAT along with achievement tests, including state assessments and MAP. These assessments are reviewed in order for district services to be provided. Students identified at a specific grade level in the elementary schools are clustered together whenever possible. This provides the opportunity for highly capable/gifted students to spend time with their intellectual peers. Students placed in a cluster will:

- Develop skills in creative and critical thinking;
- Be challenged at a higher cognitive level (i.e., Bloom's Taxonomy);
- Pursue independent study and research;
- Develop interaction skills of listening and communication.

Students in the middle school have the opportunity to apply for honors courses which are designed for students seeking a more challenging curriculum. Services and activities are provided by the school in order for these students to reach their fullest potential. These services are meaningful, age and developmentally appropriate, and socially stimulating for the individual student.

If you would like your child to be tested for possible placement in highly capable programs, please return the permission slip below to your child's school main office by January 24th.

Sincerely,

Lisa Roberts
Assistant Superintendent
360-277-2295

Permission Statement

I, _____, wish for my child, _____,

Parent/Guardian Signature

Child's Name (Print)

to be tested for potential placement in highly capable/gifted programs.

Child's School: _____ Child's Teacher: _____

Child's Grade: _____ Child's Birthdate: _____

"Educate, Empower, Inspire & Prepare"

School Board: John Campbell, Art Wightman, Laura Boad, Craig Patti, Leanna Krotzer
Dana Rosenbach, Superintendent