

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 referred students, and does midyear testing for all students in 2nd and 5th grades using the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT). The screener will be given to all 2nd and 5th graders. The post screener will be given to students who score high on the screener and other academic measures. This year’s midyear testing will be in February.

What does CogAT measure?

The 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 Screening form consists of the analogies portion of each Battery: Verbal/Picture analogies, Number Analogies, and Figure Matrices. Administration time is about 60 minutes, and a composite derived score will be provided. The post screener takes an additional 60 minutes and is administered over several days.

Why is the CogAT administered?

Highly capable students are identified using the CogAT along with achievement tests and a creativity inventory. A multi-disciplinary team reviews this data in order for district services to be provided. Elementary students identified as highly capable at a specific grade level 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 or accelerate through content;
- Develop interaction skills of listening and communication.

As students move from the elementary level to the middle school, they will have the opportunity to apply for honors courses which are designed for students seeking a more challenging curriculum. In addition, students can be accelerated in math when appropriate. Students in high school are highly encouraged to register for Advanced Placement courses or Running Start. 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 each individual student.

If a student is not placed in a cluster program or honors course or would like to exit a program, an appeal can be submitted to the Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment. A selection team will review the appeal, all assessment requirements, and make a final determination.

If you do not want your student to take the Cognitive Abilities Test, please complete the bottom of this form and return it to your child’s classroom teacher by January 24th.

Sincerely,

Lisa Roberts
Assistant Superintendent
360-277-2295

I, _____, DO NOT want my child, _____,
Parent/Guardian Signature Childs Name (Print)

tested for potential placement in highly capable/gifted programs. Child’s Birthdate _____

Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

“Educate, Empower, Inspire & Prepare”

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