



the gifted program WESTMINSTER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

The Gifted Program at Westminster Christian Academy supports the educational and social-emotional needs of families with students identified as gifted. The staff and administration believe that the educational needs of all children of covenant families, including gifted students, should be met through the school's academic programs. The Gifted Program enhances academic potential and success by providing compacted, enriched curriculum. The gifted teachers help each student understand his or her learning profile and social-emotional needs while confidently seeking and managing academic coursework. This program will allow each student the academic challenge commensurate to his or her intellectual potential.

GIFTED DEFINED

Westminster has considered the guidelines of the National Association of Gifted Children (NAGC) in developing gifted services and identifying the gifted learner.

Gifted students are those who demonstrate outstanding levels of aptitude (defined as exceptional ability to reason and learn) and competence (documented performance or achievement in 10% or rarer) in one or more academic domains. *"What is Giftedness"* (NAGC, 2015)

The Gifted Program at Westminster focuses on exceptional ability and potential in the academic domains of humanities, mathematics, and science. Ensuring that highly able learners are recognized and subsequently served through systematic programming is of the highest priority. *"National Standards in Gifted and Talented Education"* (NAGC, 2015)

THE PROGRAM

The services for students identified as gifted begin in the seventh grade and continue through graduation.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

At this level, students are enrolled in compacted, enriched, social studies classes in place of the traditional social studies course. This is the time for students of high potential to explore their particular intellectual abilities from a biblical perspective, to be exposed to experiences that help them define interests and passions, and to explore the challenges peculiar to their giftedness. The teacher of the gifted courses also assists students in course selections, scheduling, and advocacy and works with other teachers on appropriate accommodations for gifted students. Students participate in appropriate placement in the traditional curriculum for the remainder of the day.

UPPER SCHOOL

At this level, students have one more Gifted Exploration course before transitioning to gifted courses that focus on integrating the study of the humanities. Ninth grade student will have the option to enroll in a gifted geometry course, and 10th grade gifted students will be offered a honors literature course of Western civilization. At the end of their Westminster careers, students finish with a two-year-long capstone project in the 11th and 12th grades. With a continued emphasis on a biblical perspective, gifted students are supported with the development of a Gifted Student Profile, development of the four-year academic plan, and with assistance in course selection, acceleration, and advocacy.

EVALUATION / DOCUMENTATION GUIDELINES

Consideration for the Gifted Program requires documentation of the presence of the gifted designation. This documentation may be met in any of the following ways:

Students who have previously been identified as gifted and who have participated in a gifted education program in a previous school may be considered for the program by providing the following:

- Previous IQ testing (within the last three years)* with a written diagnostic summary
- Documentation of participation from the previous school
- Achievement test scores from group standardized or individual achievement tests
- Teacher recommendation and Renzuli rating scale from current teachers

Students seeking the gifted designation for the first time may be considered for the program by providing the following:

- IQ testing (within the last three years)* with a written diagnostic summary
- Group or individual achievement testing
- Current grades
- Teacher recommendation and Renzuli rating scale from current teachers

*Students with IQ testing older than three years will need an updated IQ test from the list of approved testers, SSD, or the gifted program in their home district. The WISC-V is preferred.

When the documentation has been received, the admissions committee for gifted services will meet to determine acceptance into the program.

GIFTED PROGRAM LIST OF APPROVED TESTERS

St. Louis University Psychological Services Center – 314.997.2278

UMSL Community Psychological Services – 314.516.5824

Washington University Psychological Services – 314.935.6555

Cardinal Glennon Children's Psychology Department – 314.577.5667

Private Practitioners

Louise Frochlichstein – 636.532.9381 – www.giftedchildtesting.com

Gerry Gremmelsbacher – 314.842.9109 – geryg@sbcglobal.net

Agnes Meyo – 314.780.3621 – www.drmeyo.com

Karen Preusser – 636.256.0600 – www.clarksoncounseling.com

Patricia Curry – 314.420.9700 – eiaservices.com

Laurie Duncan – 636.532.2374

It is the responsibility of the parent to determine the appropriate tester for their child.

FEES

Each agency or private practice tester has different fee schedules. Agencies generally follow sliding scale guidelines. Fees are the responsibility of the family.

SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY

If a student has been evaluated by SSD within the last year and the data reflects twice exceptionality and includes the four components listed above, that data will be considered for inclusion in the program.