

Dear Second Grade Parents/Guardians,

Friday, March 5, 2021

We are writing this letter to inform you of the upcoming whole grade screening for 2nd graders for gifted identification and servicing in our District's Alpha and/or Step Up Programs. The screenings will occur during the week of **March 8-12**, according to your school's testing schedule outlined below. The results of this screening will be reported to parents and staff members later in the spring as tests will be forwarded to Pearson Inc. Gifted identified students will begin programming in the 2021-22 school year.

In the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) document entitled *Assessments Approved for Gifted Identification and Prescreening, Office for Exceptional Children, August 2020*, it states that:

"A whole grade screening occurs when a district tests all students in a particular grade level for gifted identification. The *Operating Standards for Identifying and Serving Students Who are Gifted* (Ohio Administrative Code 3301-51-15) requires districts to provide whole-grade screenings in the areas of superior cognitive ability, specific academic ability reading/writing, specific academic ability mathematics, and creative thinking ability once during the K-2 grade band and once again during the 3-6 grade band. Districts must use assessments approved for gifted identification to meet this requirement. Districts must ensure the fair and equitable testing of students for gifted identification. This includes selecting of appropriate instruments and allowing for identification of all students, including those from populations traditionally underrepresented in gifted education. Districts must use allowable accommodations required by students' individualized education programs (IEPs) and 504 plans."

The following assessment instruments will be administered:

Grade 2: Stanford Achievement Tenth Edition, Primary 2, academic areas (pencil/paper version)

Grade 2: Naglieri Non-verbal Ability Test for superior cognitive ability, Level C (pencil/paper version)

Guidelines for Virtual Learners:

Arrive to the main entrance by 8:30AM; upon exiting your vehicle, your child must properly wear a mask and have his/her temperature taken. (If your child has a fever or shows cold symptoms, they may not attend the testing sessions.) Students will sanitize their hands and proceed to the designated classroom where breakfast will be available. Testing will occur from 9-10:45AM on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. (Please note that students will report online for their normal ARC Wednesday routine.) **Pick up time will be 11AM.** Upon departure, bagged lunches will be distributed to each participant. All 2nd graders are expected to resume their regular virtual learning schedule for the remainder of the afternoon, from 12-2PM on testing days.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns regarding this testing process.

Mr. Ken Lasky, Principal