

Mission Statement

We educate students to be life-long learners and engaged citizens to make a difference in the world by fully achieving their potential. Our vision is to teach and inspire students to contribute to society in meaningful and compassionate ways.

Gifted & Talented Education (GATE)

The state of Ohio defines a gifted student as one who performs or shows potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared to others of their age, experience, or environment. For some, their learning needs are not a good match to the standard curriculum. The goal of identification is to locate these students so that, when necessary, adjustments can be made in their school program in order to match their needs.

Identification

Ohio Revised Code 3324 sets the Operating Standards for Gifted Education. In accordance with Ohio operating standards, Sylvania Schools conducts two whole grade gifted screening opportunities to identify students: 1. 2nd Grade Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) and Iowa (Reading & math) 2. 5th Grade CogAT and Iowa (Reading, math, science, and social studies). A student must score in the 95th percentile or higher on a cognitive abilities test or a single subject achievement test to be identified as gifted. Students achieving a score in the 94th percentile are recommended for retesting.

Recommendations may also be made by parents, guardians, teachers, or the student him/herself. The district will identify students in grades K-12 in one or more of the following categories: superior cognitive ability, specific academic ability, creative thinking ability and visual or performing arts based on identification criteria established by the State of Ohio. Any student transferring into the district will be assessed within 90 days of the transfer at the request of the parent. We also have additional tests available to ensure that we meet the needs of underrepresented populations. To request testing or reconsideration, please contact Kathleen Pollock, Gifted Services Coordinator, at 419-824-8576 or kpollock@sylvaniaschools.org. For a complete list of approved assessments and qualifying scores visit the Ohio Department of Education website: <https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Other-Resources/Gifted-Education/Gifted-Screening-and-Identification/Chart-of-Approved-Assessment-and-Gifted-Education/Chart-of-Approved-Assessments.pdf.aspx>.

Written Education Plan

A Written Education Plan (WEP) is a document that outlines the goals of service for students who are gifted. It may include both academic and affective goals. Each student receiving services must have a WEP that is developed in collaboration with a gifted intervention specialist. Parents will be provided with a copy of the WEP.

Appeals/Withdrawing

Appeals regarding gifted education practices or procedures should be directed to the GATE Coordinator or the Director of Teaching and Learning. For withdrawals, please complete the Withdrawal Request Form for Sylvania Gifted and Talented located on the Sylvania Schools website:

<http://sylvania.k12.oh.us/>.

Continuum of Services & Highly Qualified Staff

Sylvania Schools provides gifted education services as defined by the state in grades 6-12. All gifted services are provided by highly qualified gifted specialists. During elementary school, gifted students have the opportunity to participate in enrichment activities led by a Gifted Intervention Specialist (GIS). Identified students in 4th grade meet 30 minutes per week while 5th grade students meet 30 minutes twice a week with the GIS during core plus time.

At the junior high level, Sylvania Schools provides opportunities for cognitively gifted students and students who are identified in reading and writing to participate in 6th grade GATE reading, 7th grade GATE English, and 8th grade GATE English.

During high school, there are a diverse catalog of offerings for gifted students in the areas of English, math, science, social studies, World Languages, fine arts, and career technical studies.

Gifted Staff Directory

Coordinator of Gifted Services	Kathleen Pollock	kpollock@sylvaniaschools.org	419-824-8576
Arbor Hills GATE Teacher	Janice Heller	jheller@sylvaniaschools.org	419-824-8680 x4128
McCord GATE Teacher	Kate Strausbaugh	kstrausbaugh@sylvaniaschools.org	419-824-8560 x4265
Timberstone GATE Teacher	Sara Nelson	snelson@sylvaniaschools.org	419-824-8680 x4360