



## Highly Capable Program Parent Referral and Testing Information

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Per state law, Spokane International Academy will begin offering a Highly Capable program for students who qualify in Kindergarten-8th grade during the 2019-20 school year and beyond. The Highly Capable program is designed to meet the needs of students with exceptionally high ability. The program model for Highly Capable services varies by grade and by academy.

Identified students at the Primary Academy receive Highly Capable services through differentiated literacy and math experiences in their classroom. This includes: grouping with students of like exceptional ability, more challenging classwork, opportunities for acceleration of content via Lexia and ST Math/Khan Academy and opportunities for increased inquiry during other content provided during class.

Identified students at the Middle Academy will receive opportunities for differentiated classwork throughout their schedule, but primarily in their English and math courses. Students will have the opportunity to take math courses typically designed for older students for high school credit, read higher level texts in their English class, and be challenged with more open-ended inquiry opportunities in the other courses for which they are enrolled.

**Students may be referred for possible testing and/or placement in the Highly Capable program by a parent, teacher, peer, community member, or themselves. Individuals referring a child for possible identification for these programs need to fill out the attached referral form.** Characteristics of Highly Capable students are listed on the referral page to assist in your decision.

In order to get a strong baseline understanding of the cognitive profiles of our students, and to ensure all students have an equal opportunity to qualify for the program, it is our desire that all students in kindergarten - 7th grade participate in screening activities. Should you rather not have your child participate, you just simply need to not return the attached referral form. We are only allowed to screen students who return a form. Those whose scores place them in the top percentiles will proceed with further testing for consideration of identification for the Highly Capable program. **Parents/guardians who would like to have their child screened for possible testing for the Highly Capable program need to complete the attached referral and permission to screen form.** Identified students at the Primary and Middle Academy will begin receiving services in August, 2019. Although there are many people who can refer a student for consideration, only parents/guardians can give permission to screen/test by completing the attached form.

Please review the following related activities and timelines:

- **The deadline to return the attached permission to test form is Friday March 1st**
- Screening will take place mid-March with initial screening assessment data reported back to you at your spring conference.
- Final placement decisions will be made in April 2019 for the 2019-20 school year. Placement decisions are based on a review of the Highly Capable placement tests, internal reading and math achievement test data, and teacher input

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- Parents will receive letters in May 2019 indicating whether or not the child has been identified to receive services in the Highly Capable program for the 2019-20 school year
- Parents will be given an opportunity to appeal placement decisions. Appeals forms will be available upon request
- Once a child begins receiving Highly Capable services, a parent or the school may exit the student if it is decided that the child no longer needs/or wishes to receive services
- If you have questions you may also contact SIA's Highly Capable program coordinator, Travis Franklin, at [franklin@spokaneintlacademy.org](mailto:franklin@spokaneintlacademy.org)

<b>Eligibility Criteria for Highly Capable Program</b>			
<b>Grade Bands</b>	K-2nd Grade	3rd-5th Grade	6th-8th Grade
<b>Nomination/Referral</b>	Teacher/Parent Form	Teacher/Parent Form	Teacher/Parent Form
<b>Evaluation Criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CogAT (Q, N, NV)</li> <li>• Running Records (Adv. Level)</li> <li>• Lexia Level (At/above grade level)</li> <li>• ST Math proficiency</li> <li>• Internal Assessments (Grade level or higher)</li> <li>• Work samples</li> <li>• Report card</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CogAT (Q, N, NV)</li> <li>• Lexia Level (At/above grade level)</li> <li>• Internal Assessments (Grade level or higher)</li> <li>• Level 4 on SBA testing (Math and/or ELA)</li> <li>• Work samples</li> <li>• Report card</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CogAT (Q, N, NV)</li> <li>• Internal Assessments (Grade level or higher)</li> <li>• Level 4 on SBA testing (Math and/or ELA)</li> <li>• Work samples</li> <li>• Report card</li> </ul>
<b>Eligibility Criteria (Cognitive Abilities)</b>	90th *percentile or higher (CogAT)	90th *percentile or higher (CogAT)	90th *percentile or higher (CogAT)

*(Percentile refers to a nationally normed score against students of similar age. For example, a student scoring in the 90th percentile would have scored better than 90 students out of 100 that took the test.)*

Sincerely,

Travis Franklin  
 Head of School  
 Spokane International Academy

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