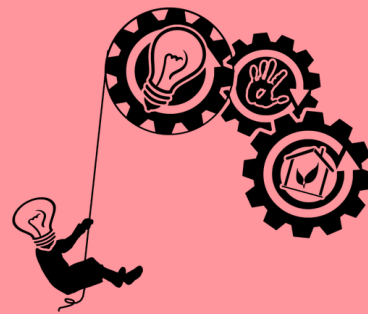


GIFTED & TALENTED NEWSLETTER



WESTERN BROWN LOCAL SCHOOLS

APRIL 2023

BIG CHANGES COMING OUR WAY!

Gifted + Talented Education at WBLS 2023-2024

The Western Brown Local School District will be ramping up our gifted education and enrichment opportunities.

District Wide:

We are starting the process of training all teachers to provide gifted education services to students. We will also continue to offer acceleration opportunities.

Our hope is to offer targeted pull-out enrichment activities starting for the 2023-2024 school year.

We have created an enrichment library with loanable Learning Kits, books, and more! Families and teachers are welcome to lend the Learning Kits. The kits are free and created with grade-levels and identifications in mind. Our new gifted website (linked from the District URL) will display the Learning Kits.

Our Parent/District Gifted Team meetings will be announced in May for the 2023-2024 school year. Two new things coming to the Gifted and Talented Program are a Gifted Game Night and a new annual Gifted 101 meeting where we discuss our services, testing, and gifted FAQ's.



"CREATIVITY IS SEEING WHAT EVERYONE ELSE HAS SEEN, AND THINKING WHAT NO ONE ELSE HAS THOUGHT." -A. EINSTEIN

Elementary + Middle School:

The District will continue to offer the County ESC Pull-out Challenge Program for 3-6 grade students with superior cognitive identifications.

We hope to offer push-in services for K-3 students throughout the year, based on teacher interest. The P.E.T.S. Program helps students identify their preferred style of thinking and how to build on a student's innate cognitive abilities through fun hands-on activities.

High School:

Along with continuing to serve our students in the classroom, and through CCP, we are offering two new hybrid learning options. The two classes will be offered to Sophomores-Seniors:

The GT Mentorship/Apprenticeship Course offers students the ability to work with a business of interest, network, and earn hands-on/real world experience that can help them with their career options after high school.

GT Master Class where students work closely with the GIS to create areas of study (British Literature, Battle Bots, a Business Plan, the sky's the limit!). Students will choose their presentation method at the end of the semester.

Check out our Parent Padlet!



Social Emotional Corner



Perfectionism can often affect gifted children. There are two main types of perfectionism:

1. A healthy perfectionism that helps students strive/achieve, where they may hold themselves and their work to a high standard, they often want things to be done “right”.
2. An unhealthy perfection that may manifest as a child having issues beginning a project (often because they are afraid that they are incapable of not completing it to their impractically high standards or expectations) or not completing projects. This child will tend to gravitate towards experiences where they know that they will be successful and typically not pushed outside of their comfort zone. Unhealthy perfectionism may be misidentified as a lack of motivation.

The Parent Perspective



My granddaughter has had the pleasure of participating in Shawnee State's Upward Bound Math and Science Program and it has been an exceptional experience for her. She is creating relationships with her peers that have similar interests and abilities and she loves the rigorous curriculum that the teachers are providing her.

Through the academic school year, she works online while her teachers give her tasks and homework. We also travel to Shawnee for weekend activities throughout the year. She loves that she gets to reconnect with her friends and instructors during this time.

She is really looking forward to the summer 6 week residential program. During that time she will be living on campus while attending intensive Math, Science and enrichment courses.

If you think The Upward Bound Program may be a good fit for your child you can find more information about this program (and more) at Shawnee.edu and search for "Youth and Pre-college Programs".

Experiences with perfectionism vary from child to child but there are things parents and teachers can do to help curb negative behaviors and/or the non-ideal circumstances of perfectionism.

What are the Signs of perfectionism:

Unrealistically high expectations, easily frustrated by mistakes (or by their perception of mistakes), avoiding or procrastinating on homework, worrying (mentally or it may manifest physically) about failing, taking a long time to complete tasks or assignments, being self-conscious, or having meltdowns.

How can I help my child?

Parents can focus on the process over the outcome. Make connections between accidents and growth. Read books that celebrate mistakes and highlight how mistakes often become successes. Adopt the mindset that mistakes mean that you're learning. Be a good role model, by showing your kids that mistakes happen and things do not always go the way you planned. React with grace, humility, and honesty and your child will learn from the best!





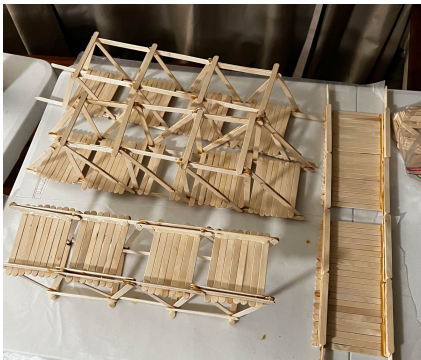
STUDENT SHOWCASE

4th Grader Caitlynn Bernhardt

Caitlynn placed 4th place overall at Mt. Orab's Annual Science Fair. She went on to earn a blue ribbon at the Brown County Science Fair.

Her project was to identify how much weight her popsicle stick bridges could withstand. She made 5 different bridges; 2 types of triangle truss bridges, an I-beam bridge, an arch bridge and a square braced truss bridge.

To perform her test she had 2 tables evenly spaced, with a block of wood, an eyelet screw and carabiner to a large bucket. She added the weight into the bucket in 2 1/2 to 5 pound increments. Each addition of weight and each bridge test was recorded. Caitlynn did additional research after the



experiments into bridges and found additional facts for her research paper.

Great work,
Caitlynn!!

TEACHER SHOWCASE

Mrs. Carkeek 2nd Grade HEMS

During our 1st Parent District Gifted Team Meeting one of Mrs. Carkeek's student's parents spoke up. He detailed that she offers weekly summaries of what they have learned in class and what (and how) parents can provide at-home extensions for deeper learning. The family loved that Mrs. Carkeek offered this and they have seen immense growth in their child at-home and further success in the classroom.

Here is what Mrs. Carkeek had to say, "Each week I send home a "Family Talk" newsletter to my students' families. The newsletter helps me provide families with prompts about our weekly learning topics at school such as reading skills/lessons and Reveal math units/lessons.

I like to add extensions to help families with a little stretch at home, for those who are interested. The newsletter also helps me provide current and upcoming information for families.

When I introduce a topic, it's great to hear a child say that someone at home had those conversations with them or maybe even gave them examples!"

