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Durham District School Board Gifted Program

DISTRIBUTION: ALL Families of Grade 3 Students Learning In-Person

UPON REQUEST ONLY: Families of Grade 4-8 Students Learning In-Person

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the Durham District School Board's screening process for Gifted and potential consideration for self-contained Gifted classes for identified intellectually gifted students beginning at the Grade 4 level at host elementary throughout the region. The core curriculum as determined by the Ontario Ministry of Education remains the same, but the teaching methods are differentiated to meet the needs of the gifted learner. The self-contained programme has been carefully designed to meet the strengths, needs, learning styles and interests of the gifted learner.

The Ontario Ministry of Education defines giftedness as "an unusually advanced degree of general intellectual ability that requires differentiated learning experiences of a depth and breadth beyond those normally provided in the regular programme to satisfy the level of educational potential indicated."

The DDSB offers a screening of the CCAT7 for students in Grades 3 or higher. Our process begins with nominations from October 8th to October 19th, 2021. Families and educators are invited to nominate students in Grade 3 or above. The week of November 22nd, students who have been nominated will participate in an intellectual assessment using a cognitive abilities test called the CCAT, which is administered by the Special Education Resource Teacher (S.E.R.T.) in a group setting in your learner's current home school. Health and safety protocols will be in effect, including physical distancing and masks, while students write among a mixed group of peers. Parents/caregivers will receive a *brief* written report describing the results of this testing in January.

The DDSB offers a pre-recorded virtual parent/caregiver information session where the facilitator for Gifted Programming will do a short presentation and answer some common questions about the screening process. Please click [HERE](#) to view this video. Any questions not answered in the video can be sent to the Facilitator for Gifted Programming, Alison Warren.

You may nominate your student in grade three or any subsequent grade. Students may take the test with the DDSB no more than twice. Grade 3 families, please fill in the survey even if you DO NOT want your child to participate in testing this year (there is an option to decline testing on the form). Any other grades complete ONLY if you wish to participate in gifted testing this year. Click [HERE](#) to complete the electronic nomination form. Nominations close at 9pm on October 19th, 2021. Late submissions will not be accepted.



Alison Warren

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