

Gifted Parent Note:

To parents of students in our Gifted & Talented Preschool and our Self-contained Gifted Kindergarten Program:

Thank you for being part of our gifted education community in PVSchools. We are very pleased that you have chosen our gifted programs to nurture and develop your children's potential. I would like to clarify a few important aspects of our programs for those of you who are new to our gifted programs.

Please note that the qualifying rates for students to apply to the Preschool, Kindergarten Program, and the Self-contained Elementary Program differ. We keep the qualifying rate for preschool at a 90% on an IQ test because of the challenge of testing students under the age of four. The Kindergarten program follows the state guidelines for gifted identification at 97%+ on an ability or IQ test.

The Self-contained Gifted Program for the elementary grades (gr. 1- 6) is designed for highly and profoundly gifted students who are radically accelerated academically. This difference in the qualification rates is much higher, as the vast majority of our gifted students are better served in the Cluster Grouping Model and Content Replacement, which provide enrichment and acceleration at each of our elementary schools.

Many parents contact us questioning whether the Self-contained Gifted Program for grades 1- 6 is the best option for their child. When receiving these calls we typically direct parents to our gifted website to read through the difference between the programs. Sometimes students have the gifted test scores they need to apply to the Self-contained Program but do not yet have the achievement levels needed to be successful in this highly advanced and rigorous program. For these students, as well as for those gifted who do not qualify to apply to the Self-contained Program in the elementary grades, we recommend the Cluster Grouping Model (beginning in Kindergarten) and Content Replacement (beginning in the fourth grade).

When considering transitioning from our Self-contained Kinder Program to our Elementary programs, I encourage parents to go to the Arizona Department of Education website to examine the academic standards. Students in the Self-contained Program in the elementary grades are working at least two grade levels beyond their actual grade. (This means that students in the Gr. 1/2 class are working on Gr. 3/4 coursework.) You can examine the level of expectations for working at these grades by viewing the grade level standards.

I hope this information will help guide your decisions when choosing from our continuum of gifted services in PVSchools. We appreciate your support of our programs and hope to provide your children with exceptional learning experiences throughout their school years.

Sincerely,
Dina Brulles