District 11 Gifted Magnet Program (GMP) Application 2020-21 Middle School
Grades 6-8

Applications due by March 6, 2020
Send GMP application to Mark Hess, Gifted Programs Specialist, 1115 North El Paso Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80903 mark.hess@d11.org (719)520-2261

Applications turned in after the deadline will still be considered if space is available. Space in the program is limited and priority is given to students who have a formal gifted identification and who meet the application deadline. Talent Pool students need to apply each year to have a space in the GMP Program. Please apply early as applications are dated as they are received. Official outcome letters will be sent to the address on the application after the GT Program Specialist and the application committee review submissions.

DATE ________________ How did you hear about GMP? __________________________

Program Overview

The District 11 Middle School Gifted Magnet Program is a full-day program for gifted students in grades 6-8. The Middle School Gifted Magnet Program philosophy focuses on educating the whole child through comprehensive curriculum centered on year-long themes, experiential learning and a wide variety of exploratory classes and academic competitions.

Gifted Magnet Program curriculum is interdisciplinary and built upon year-long themes, change and conflict. Curriculum is relevant and rigorous, exceeds state content standards and encourages critical and complex thinking skills. Differentiated instruction ensures that students meet high expectations and have opportunity for content acceleration. Teachers facilitate students’ learning through creative, engaging and specific instruction with program flexibility. Students are encouraged to explore individual interests and passions. Unique experiential learning opportunities are provided through activities such as field trips, team building, guest speakers, socratic seminars and debates. Other exploratory opportunities are available through athletic teams, intramurals, clubs and competitions such as Battle of the Books, Drama Club, Future Problem Solving, Science Fair, Science Olympiad, Math Counts, History Day, Lego League, Geography Bee, MESA and Solar Energy Challenge.

Student visits and shadowing: During the Month of February, 2020 (Please contact Gifted Teacher at the school for an appointment)
Sabin – Becky Marsh Rebecca.Marsh@d11.org (719)328-7075 West – Beth Graber Elizabeth.Graber@d11.org (719)328-4926

❖ Official outcome letters will be sent to the address on the application after the GT Program Specialist and application committee review submissions. Applications are on a rolling basis and outcome letters will be sent in a timely manner.
❖ GMP accepted students will receive District 11 Choice permits and are guaranteed space at the school in which they are accepted.
Student’s Name ___________________________________  School Preference: Sabin  West

Philosophy: The Gifted Magnet Program (GMP) exists to help gifted and talented and high achieving children develop their capacity to think critically and creatively and contribute productively in a contemporary world. The curriculum fosters students’ ability to communicate thought effectively while mastering all skills associated with Colorado state standards. GMP teachers are also committed to the development of the whole child as they work with students on establishing a balanced sense of self and others.

Highly able children need opportunities to work on their own and with other students. Therefore, GMP teachers use teaching strategies in the classroom that encourage children to recognize and use their abilities independently and in collaboration with teachers and other students. With this background, GMP students acquire and sustain life skills critical to productive and responsible citizenship.

GMP students absorb information rapidly and are capable of a level of inquiry and analysis beyond the average. They benefit from a curriculum that focuses on substantive knowledge, complex processes, and sophisticated products. The curriculum compacts basic skills, where possible, in students’ strength areas while exposing all students to a greater depth and breadth of knowledge and experience.

EXPECTATIONS

For Students:
- Maintain grades of a “C” or higher in core classes
- Complete all assignments and projects
- Take the initiative to ask for extra help when necessary
- Check Student Connect several times each week
- Bring all materials to class

For Parents:
- Inform teachers of any situation which may impact student learning
- Assist students with organization of materials and due dates
- Provide outside assistance with class work if student is having difficulty
- Check Parent Connect (Q) on a weekly basis.

For Teachers:
- Provide help sessions
- Inform parents of inadequate student progress or behavior concerns
- Update Parent/Student Connect weekly
- Provide learning experiences that challenge students to grow
- Provide binder checks and opportunities to assist students with organization
- Celebrate student successes

❖ Parent: I am aware that the Gifted Magnet Program is academically rigorous. I will support my child so that he/she can be successful academically and contribute to a positive learning environment.

__________________________________________________________
Parent Signature  Date

❖ Student: I am aware that the Gifted Magnet Program is academically rigorous. I am committed to working hard in all subject areas and to making positive contributions in the learning environment.

__________________________________________________________
Student Signature  Date
Student’s Name _______________________________   School Preference:  Sabin   West

Classroom Teacher Recommendation Form

Teacher’s Name: ___________________________   School: ___________________   Phone: _______________

Length of acquaintance: _________________   Grade level in which you taught this student: __________

Comparing this student with other academically adept students, rate the student from 0 – 5 as follows:

0=Never   1=Rarely   2=Seldom   3=Often   4=Almost Always   5=Always

A. The student is an intense learner. This is demonstrated through:

1.____ determination to complete assignments and projects successfully
2.____ using advanced vocabulary, incorporating it into conversation or writing
3.____ possessing a large amount of factual knowledge used accurately, reading extensively
4.____ awareness, concern for fairness, prejudice, and equity issues beyond age level
5.____ exploring topics of personal interest beyond age level, becoming totally absorbed in an area of particular interest

B. The student is an analytical thinker. Analytical thinking is demonstrated through:

6.____ an understanding of ideas and complex concepts
7.____ an interest in challenging situations, approaching problems from different perspectives, tackling difficult problems and issues which others may find frustrating
8.____ learning new skills and concepts quickly
9.____ an awareness of relationships, using metaphors or analogies, making mental connections
10.____ a willingness to take risks, showing confidence in answers and willing to support a different idea or opinion

C. The student is a creative producer. Creative, productive thinking is demonstrated through:

11.____ generating different ideas, adapting readily to new situations
12.____ originality, expressing familiar ideas in unusual ways, offering unique solutions to problems or questions, creating original products
13.____ creating detailed projects, turning the simple into complex, adding details, embellishing
14.____ questioning, asking complex questions not typical of age group
15.____ a sense of humor reflecting advanced understanding, seeing humor in situations other find humorless

D. The student is highly motivated academically. Motivation is demonstrated through:

16.____ working well independently
17.____ exceeding expectations, doing more than what is required
18.____ working cooperatively as a team member, receptive to the ideas of others
19.____ completes assignments on time or prior to due date
20.____ high quality work on extended assignments.

____ Highly Recommend     _____ Recommend     _____ Recommend with reservation     _____ Do not recommend

Comments: ______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________

Please mail or pony to:
Mark Hess, Gifted Programs Specialist
1115 North El Paso Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80903