



PO Box 1840 • 725 Highland Road
La Center, WA 98629
Tel 360.263.2131 • Fax 360.263.1140

Dear Parents,

La Center School District offers a program for highly capable students in grades three through five. This model involves identifying students who would benefit from specialized instruction and support at their grade level. Students who qualify would have the option of being in a “cluster group” of similar students within a classroom at their grade level the following year.

- Students would qualify for participation in the cluster based on a matrix score from a variety of performance measures.
- At each grade level in the elementary school, one teacher would be identified as the “cluster group” teacher for that grade. In some cases this might be a teacher of a blended, multi-grade class or the classroom could involve just one grade level of students.
- Students in the highly capable “cluster” would be housed in a regular classroom along with other students of all abilities. However the students in the cluster would receive differentiated instruction from a teacher who receives support for this purpose.
- If a child qualifies for this program, parents may or may not choose this option.

We are now beginning to collect information from parents who feel their child could benefit from such a program. Qualification for this program includes an examination of data from standardized test scores, the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT), teacher recommendation and parent nomination. If your child was tested for this program last year and did not meet qualifications, re-testing is an option that is open to you. Be advised however, that significant changes in performance on the CogAT from year to year are **not** typical.

If you feel that your child would be a likely candidate for this program, you can pick up more information in the school office along with the parent nomination form. Your completion of a parent packet is required for student participation. **These parent forms must be filled out and turned in to your school’s office by March 15, 2010, if you want your child considered in this year’s placement process.**

If you make application for consideration in the Highly Capable program, your third through fifth grade child will need to be available for CogAT testing, which requires one morning. **CogAT testing for 3rd-5th graders will be scheduled during the week of March 17-26, 2010.** If you have questions about the La Center Elementary School Highly Capable Program, please feel free to contact me or your building principal.

Sincerely,

Carol Patton
Intermediate Principal
(360) 263-2134
cpatton@lcsd.k12.wa.us