



The Independent School District of Boise City

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March 12, 2009

Dear Parents:

The Boise School District is committed to providing for the needs of gifted children through our GATE pullout classes, gifted full-time classes, highly gifted classes and other services. We have just completed a curriculum audit that included a gifted program review. Due to the current economic situation and the recommendations from this audit we need to make some changes in the program beginning next fall.

These changes have been made based on the following goals: to provide the most effective and efficient services to qualified students, to support the rigor of the curriculum and instruction in the gifted programs, to provide for the needs of special populations of gifted students, to increase instructional time, and to make services more accessible to students in all parts of town.

Beginning in the fall of 2009-2010 these changes will be implemented.

- At least one school in each quadrant of the Boise School District will have full-time gifted classes for grades one through six.
- Qualified students may apply for placement in the full time classes at any school in the district. Students from within the school's quadrant will be placed before other students are considered. Unless the school where the classes are located is your home school, you must request open enrollment at the school by May 15th.
- GATE pullout classes will include qualified students from first through sixth grades.
- Students may be referred and tested during Kindergarten to determine if they qualify for the first grade gifted full-time and/or pullout classes.
- The existing full time gifted classes at Horizon and Roosevelt will be phased out over time. Each year the youngest grade will be phased out and students who are subsequently referred in that grade may go to the full time gifted class at one of the newly established gifted-class schools or to gifted pullout classes. Students currently in full time gifted classes can continue in gifted classes at that school through sixth grade.
- Full time gifted classes currently at Jefferson and Whitney will be moved to Monroe starting next year.

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In 2009-2010 the following schools will have full time gifted combination classes for 1st/ 2nd grade, 3rd /4th grade, and 5th/ 6th grade: Cynthia Mann Elementary, White Pine Elementary, Monroe Elementary, and Valley View Elementary. In addition: Horizon Elementary will have full time gifted combination classes for students in 2nd through 6th grade. Roosevelt Elementary will have combination classes for students in 4th, 5th and 6th grade. Highlands Elementary will have full time gifted classes for 3rd/4th and 5th/6th grades.

Qualified students will be placed in these classes on a space available basis. Those from the neighborhood school will be placed first, then those from the quadrant, then from the Boise district, then from outside our district.

Schools that have full time gifted classes in all grades do not have GATE pullout classes and are not part of a pod. If for some reason, parents from one of these schools prefer to place their child in a GATE pullout class instead of a full time class, they may request placement in another school but will need to provide transportation to that class.

The attached chart shows the GATE pullout school pods for next year and the school that will house the classroom for each pod.

We believe this reconfiguration will provide outstanding gifted services to the children of the Boise School District. We are aware that the transition may present some challenges. Please contact your child's gifted teacher or gifted facilitator or your school principal if you have any questions. If you need further assistance please contact me. We look forward to working with you to meet the needs of your children.

Sincerely,



Rita S. Hoffman
Gifted Program Supervisor

GATE Pullout Classroom locations and pods for 2009-2010

*** bold indicates the school where the GATE pullout classroom is located for that pod. Students will be bused during the school day from their home school to the pod classroom school.**

***Hillcrest**

Amity
Maple Grove
Jefferson

***Hawthorne**

Grace Jordan
Owyhee
Whitney

***Garfield**

Liberty
Trail Wind

***Longfellow**

Washington
Adams
Roosevelt (1st/2nd/3rd only)
Highlands (1st/2nd only)

***Lowell**

Pierce Park
Shadow Hills
Taft
Collister

***Mountain View**

Whittier
Morley Nelson
Horizon (1st/2nd only)
Koelsch

***Riverside**