

# **Netcong Elementary School Gifted & Talented Program 2023-24**

Netcong School is dedicated to developing all students through appropriate educational experience. The District also recognizes that some have the capacity for extraordinary learning ability and/or outstanding talent as defined by the U.S. Department of Education (1993) and accepted by the National Association for Gifted Children (2004):

Gifted learners are children and youth with outstanding talent who perform or who have the potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishments when compared with others of their age, experience, or environment.

Recognizing that these students come from all socioeconomic, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds, the mission of the gifted and talented program, based on research and curriculum development, is to provide opportunities for students to explore their intellectual, creative, and artistic gifts and talents within the classroom and with beyond-the-classroom experiences. It is essential to provide appropriate and ongoing learning experiences and environments that incorporate the academic, psychological, and social needs of students. It is our responsibility to provide students with educational alternatives that teach, challenge, and expand their knowledge, while simultaneously stressing the development of independent and self-directed learners who continuously generate question, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information and ideas. The Gifted and Talented Program runs from October through June each year to allow time in September to identify students who may be eligible for the program.

Netcong Elementary School further accepts the Theory of Multiple Intelligences as advanced by Howard Gardner (1983) that recognizes multiple ways to “be smart,” including intrapersonal, interpersonal ability, musical, and bodily kinesthetic abilities. The District is dedicated to providing a rich array of opportunities for students to explore leadership, music, performance, athletic and other beyond-academic gifts and talents. Music, art, athletics, student government and many more classroom and extracurricular activities are considered worthwhile opportunities for gifted and talented students. However, specific G&T programming is dedicated to academic/creative talents in the areas of verbal-linguistic, math-logical, naturalist and spatial “intelligences.”

## Identification Process

The identification procedure begins with the child’s teacher. It is an ongoing process. Each teacher begins this process after comparing the student his/her peers. This process can be initiated at any time of the school year. The recommendation for continued participation the following year will be review by the new teacher. Furthermore, once identified by the classroom teacher, the teacher makes a recommendation for the student to take the SAGES-2 assessment to identify the student’s strengths. From there, the student’s grades are reviewed as are their standardized test scores. Finally, all data is input on a form and the child is evaluated utilizing a matrix to determine if they are eligible for the gifted and talented program.

<b>A Bright Child:</b>	<b>A Gifted Learner:</b>
Knows the answers	Asks the questions
Is interested	Is highly curious
Is attentive	Is mentally & physically involved
Has good ideas	Has wild, silly ideas
Works Hard	Plays around, yet tests well
Answers the questions	Discusses in detail, elaborates
Top group	Beyond the group
Listens with interest	Shows strong feelings & opinions
Learns with ease	Already knows
6-8 repetitions for mastery	1-2 repetitions for mastery
Understands ideas	Constructs abstractions
Enjoys peers	Prefers adults
Grasps the meaning	Draws inferences
Completes assignments	Initiates projects
Is receptive	Is intense
Enjoys school	Enjoys learning
Absorbs information	Manipulates information
Technician	Inventor
Good memorizer	Good guesser
Enjoys sequential presentation	Thrives on complexity
Is alert	Is keenly observant
Is pleased with own learning	Is highly self-critical

## **Netcong Elementary School Gifted & Talented Program Overview**

### **State Code:**

According to NJAC 6A:8, Netcong identifies and provides appropriate educational challenges for Gifted and Talented students.

### **Identification:**

Netcong School uses multiple measures to determine if a student meets the criteria for the Gifted and Talented program when compared to grade level peers. This is an ongoing process throughout the school year. The recommendation for participation in the program is reevaluated annually.

### **Grades K-2:**

Classroom teachers will be the main source of identification in these grade levels evaluating a student's motivational, learning, creativity, and social characteristics. Students identified as gifted and talented will take the SAGES-2 assessment.

### **Grades 3-8:**

Qualifying students in these grade levels are identified by a review of state assessments, benchmark assessments, the SAGES-2 assessment, and teacher recommendations that evaluates a student's motivational, learning, creativity, and social characteristics.

### **Program Overview:**

Carol Ann Tomlinson, Ed.D., from the University of Virginia is a noted educational expert on curriculum and instruction and differentiated instruction. Below is an excerpt from an article, "What It Means to Teach Gifted Learners Well," on the National Association for Gifted Children website, <http://www.nagc.org/resources-publications/gifted-education-practices/what-it-means-teach-gifted-learners-well>

".....Of course it will vary some with the age of the child, the subject, the learning style of the student-and possibly even the child's gender or culture."

Good Instruction for Gifted Learners:

- Begins with good curriculum and instruction....They need learning experiences that are organized by key concepts and principles of a discipline rather than by facts. Classrooms provide both structure and choice.
- Is paced in response to the student's individual needs....It's often the case that advanced learners need a slower pace of instruction than many other students their age, so they can achieve a depth or breadth of understanding needed to satisfy a big appetite for knowing.
- Happens at a higher "degree of difficulty"...more refined skills are applied at a higher plane of sophistication....They will work with fuzzier problems, will often need less teacher-imposed structure...and be able to function with a greater degree of independence than their peers.

It includes the expectation that the measure of progress and growth is competition with oneself rather than competition against others. It resides in the notion that educators understand key concepts, principles, and skills of subject domains, and present those in ways that cause highly able students to wonder and grasp, and extend their reach.

## **Netcong Elementary School Gifted & Talented Program Overview**

### **Complaint Process**

An individual who believes that a school district has not complied with the provisions of the Strengthening Gifted and Talented Education Act may file a complaint with the board of education. The complaint will be reviewed and addressed by the district's administration and the board shall issue a decision, in writing, to affirm, reject, or modify the district's action in the matter.

If you have a complaint regarding the processes and procedures related to the Netcong School District's Gifted and Talented program, please complete the Google form below and submit it for review.  
administration.

<https://forms.gle/G6vSydJtL2KNk6A97>.