

SUPPORTING YOUR GIFTED CHILD

IN SCHOOL

Successful partnerships between home and school largely depend upon common knowledge, direct and honest communication, mutual respect, and focus on solutions through shared responsibility.

Attitude

- See yourself as a contributor to enhanced learning.
- Be willing to give your time and talents (not just complaints!)
- Be assertive, not adversarial.
- Take time to say 'thank you' to your child's teachers and other school staff.
- Develop rapport with your child's teachers.
- Be respectful of the teaching profession ... being a "know-it-all" will get you nowhere.

In the Classroom

- Share your child's "at home" work and creativity at appropriate times.
- Find a constructive reason to help in the classroom when appropriate. Volunteer as a "teacher's helper" in the classroom, or work with classroom teachers to help organize curriculum-related field trips, guest speakers, and/or displays.
- Volunteer or assist in other areas of the school such as media, computer, art or front office. Volunteer for "non-gifted" school activities to give balance to your purpose and credibility to your cause.

Committees

- Become knowledgeable in building- and district-level Gifted and Talented plans, priorities, goals, and objectives. Network with other interested parents, teachers, and community members as well as representatives from other schools and school districts.
- Represent the interests and needs of Gifted and Talented students on committees such as District Accountability Committee and Special Task Force Committees.

Monitoring Your Child's Progress

- Document student academic needs through personal accounts, trends in standardized test scores, and other objective means.
- Check your child's "cumulative file" at the end of each school year; if you wish, make a copy of each of the documents for your records.

- Schedule yearly meetings with your child's G/T coordinator to review his or her Advanced Learning Plan (ALP) and discuss your child's strengths and weaknesses, personal goals, indicators of academic growth, and means for parental support. These meetings provide you with the opportunity to discuss any possible revisions of your child's ALP.

Supporting the Gifted and Talented Student

- Create formal and informal opportunities for dialogue with key educators and policy makers.
- Roundtable discussions and "brownbag lunches" provide opportunities to raise awareness of, and discuss issues related to, Gifted and Talented students and staff.