

Durham District School Board Gifted Program

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the Durham District School Board's screening process for Gifted and potential consideration for self-contained Gifted classes for identified intellectually gifted students beginning at the Grade 4 level at host elementary throughout the region. The core curriculum as determined by the Ontario Ministry of Education remains the same, but the teaching methods are differentiated to meet the needs of the gifted learner. The self-contained program has been carefully designed to meet the strengths, needs, learning styles and interests of the gifted learner.

The Ontario Ministry of Education defines giftedness as “an unusually advanced degree of general intellectual ability that requires differentiated learning experiences of a depth and breadth beyond those normally provided in the regular program to satisfy the level of educational potential indicated.”

The DDSB offers a screening of the CCAT7 for students in Grades 3 or higher. Our process begins with nominations from November 20th-December 1st, 2020. Parents, guardians and educators are invited to nominate students in Grade 3 or above. In December, students who have been nominated will participate in an intellectual assessment using a cognitive abilities test called the CCAT7, which is administered by a Special Education Resource Teacher (S.E.R.T.) in an in-person group setting in a DDSB school (location TBD). Full health and safety protocols will be in effect, including physical distancing and masks, while students write among a mixed group of peers. Parents/guardians will receive a *brief* written report describing the results of this testing in January.

The DDSB offers a pre-recorded virtual parent/guardian information session where the facilitator for Gifted Programming will do a short presentation and answer some common questions about the screening process. Please click [HERE](#) to view this video. Any questions not answered in the video can be sent to the Facilitator of Gifted Programming, Alison Warren.

Please be aware that you may nominate your student in grade three or any subsequent grade. Students may take the test with the DDSB no more than twice. If you are interested in nominating your child this year, email your school SERT the nomination form at nermeen.yahia@ddsb.ca. Title your email “Nomination for Gifted Testing 2020”. Please click on the link to access the nomination form gifted [In Person Parent Letter and form.docx](#)

Your Admin Team,

Sharon Knights and David Budd