



IMAGE

Indian Mills Academic Gifted Education

Program Rationale

New Jersey Administrative Code (N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3) states district boards of education shall:

- Be responsible for identifying gifted students and provide them with appropriate instructional adaptations and services.
- Make provisions for an ongoing identification process and appropriate educational challenges for gifted and talented students initiated in kindergarten and reviewed annually through grade 12.
- Develop appropriate curricular and instructional modifications used for gifted students indicating content, process, products, and learning environment.

Philosophy

Shamong Township School District's view of gifted education acknowledges that students have unique values, needs, and talents. A gifted pull-out program is in place for identified students in grades K-6. The IMAGE Program enhances the development of social, intellectual, and emotional needs.



Program Goals

Recognize and develop talents in advanced-level learners.

Develop complex, abstract, and higher level cognitive processes.

Develop problem-solving abilities.

Increase self-directed learning.

Help students reach potential.

Provide for social and emotional needs.

Critical thinking

Creative thinking

Evaluative thinking

Problem-based learning

Facilitate opportunities for new learning



Curriculum

The IMAGE curriculum focuses on a multidisciplinary approach using higher level thinking skills. Curriculum is differentiated in content, process, and product from the regular grade level curriculum. The program is aligned with the NJ Student Learning Standards.

Components of the program may include:

- Logical thinking
- Reasoning and problem solving skills
- Critical and creative thinking
- Evaluative thinking
- Problem –based learning
- Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics (STEAM)

Identification Process

Identification is done on a yearly basis beginning in the spring. Eligibility is determined using the following multiple measures:

- Teacher recommendation
- Parent recommendation
- IQ of greater than or equal to 125
- MAPS Scores—Reading/Math
- Other

After the initial screening, a committee including the building principal, guidance counselor, IMAGE teacher, and other teachers meet to determine which students will qualify for further testing.

Final Determination

Candidates meeting the initial criteria are given the Screening Assessment for Gifted Elementary Students or the CogAT.

The committee meets again to determine eligibility for the program. Every effort is made to qualify a final candidate for the program. Assessment is ongoing. Any student not qualifying may be reconsidered for the program in the future. A student who moves to Shamong from another district and was in the previous school's gifted program will be considered for IMAGE .

Services

Students in grades 1-4 participate in a daily 35 minute pull-out program. Students in grades 5-6 attend 40 minute periods twice a week. Students are responsible for keeping up their regular classroom assignments. Students in kindergarten are tested at the end of that year however, they may be identified during the K year and services or support would be provided. Students in grades 7 & 8 choose Robotics or Spanish I.

The IMAGE teacher is trained in addressing the academic, social and emotional needs of gifted children. Shamong Township Schools participate in the Burlington County Gifted Consortium which meets quarterly and provides current topics on gifted education.

Shamong is fortunate to have bright students who work hard and perform what is expected of them. The following comparison is helpful as a guide to understanding gifted learners.

A BRIGHT CHILD

Knows the answers.

Is interested.

Is attentive.

Has good ideas.

Works hard.

Answers questions.

Top group.

Listens with interest.

Learns with ease.

Understands ideas.

Enjoys peers.

Grasps meaning.

Copies accurately.

Absorbs information

Technician.

Good memorizer.

Is Alert

Enjoys school.

Is pleased with own
learning.

Is receptive

Completes assignments.

A GIFTED LEARNER

Asks the questions.

Is highly curious.

Is mentally involved.

Has wild, silly ideas.

Plays around, tests well.

Discusses in details.

Beyond top group.

Shows strong feelings.

Already knows.

Constructs abstractions.

Prefers adults.

Draws inferences.

Creates a new design.

Manipulates information.

Inventor

Good guesser.

Is keenly observant.

Enjoys learning.

Thrives on complexity

Is intense.

Initiates projects.

... Janice Szabos, Challenge Magazine