

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE HIGHLY CAPABLE CHILD

“All children are gifted, they just open their gifts at different times.” Although all children are gifted in some way, the qualities of the intellectually gifted child may include:

- *Intense curiosity*
- *Large vocabulary*
- *Wide range of interests*
- *Keen sense of humor*
- *Accelerated rate of learning*
- *High level of reasoning skills*
- *Advanced ability to conceptualize*
- *Intense concentration*
- *Uneven skill levels*
- *Preference for complexity and abstraction*
- *Ability to solve problems in unique ways*

PURPOSE OF THE EXCEL PROGRAM

Monroe Public Schools are committed to offering opportunities for highly capable students to explore learning through enhanced activities that target their unique skills, talents, and abilities.

Extra-curricular opportunities are available at all schools for all students who wish to participate in problem-solving and critical thinking activities.

PROGRAM SERVICES

3rd - 5th Grades

Multi-age self-contained classrooms will be provided to serve students across the district at Chain Lake Elementary. Students in these classrooms will still have access to music, library, and physical education classes. Once a student has entered this program, they are eligible to remain over time with parent permission. District transportation will be provided.

6th Grade

A self-contained classroom experience will be provided at Monroe Middle School. Students will still participate in the elective programs at their school. Students may also qualify for advanced math placement. District transportation will be provided.

Honors/Advanced Placement

Beginning in 7th grade, Monroe offers a Honors/Advanced Placement program to meet the needs of highly capable students. Please see the **Honors/Advanced Placement** brochure for more information.

IMPORTANT TIMELINES

January 8, 2008

Application packets available at all schools.

January 17, 2008

Excel applications due to school counselors by 4:00 PM.

January 22 – January 25, 2008

Cognitive Abilities Test administered at each school.

March 3 – 5, 2008

Families contacted with CogAt results.

March 8 or March 22, 2008 (Saturday)

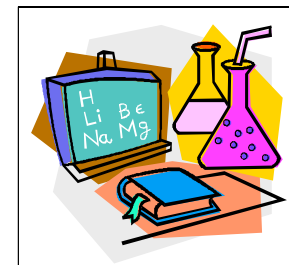
ITBS testing for qualified students without WASL scores (parents select one date).

April 21 – April 25, 2008

Parents notified of student's acceptance into program.

May 2, 2008

Written confirmation due for students who choose to participate in the Excel Program.



APPLICATION PROCESS

Students may be nominated for the program by their classroom teachers or by parents. Questions about whether a student should be nominated for the Excel program may be directed to the school counselor.

Forms and information about the program are available through the counselor at each school.

Students qualify for this program based on a weighted score from three sources:

1. Renzulli Scales for Rating the Behavioral Characteristics of Superior Students
2. Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAt)
3. Achievement Test (WASL or ITBS)

Testing will be administered to students at their neighborhood elementary school.

Students currently in the program do not need to be re-tested to continue in the program.

Parents will be notified of their student's test results and whether or not the student is eligible to participate in the Excel program. If a student does not meet the criteria on the CogAt, but has qualifying scores on their achievement test (WASL or ITBS) and on the Renzulli, he or she may re-apply for the Excel program in two years.

Once a student qualifies for Excel, his or her parents make the final decision about placement into the program.

Revised 120507

WASHINGTON STATE CRITERIA

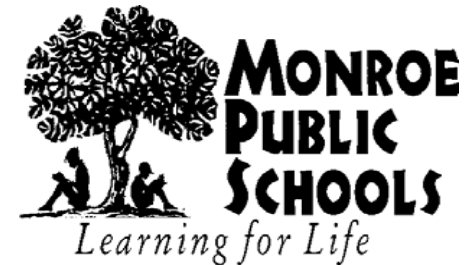
WAC 392-170-036 defines highly capable students as those who possess the following learning characteristics:

1. Capacity to learn with unusual depth of understanding, to retain what has been learned, and to transfer learning to new situations;
2. Capacity and willingness to deal with increasing levels of abstraction and complexity earlier than their chronological peers;
3. Ability to make unusual connections among ideas and concepts;
4. Ability to learn very quickly in their area(s) of intellectual strength;
5. Capacity for intense concentration and/or focus.

WAC 392-170-055 further specifies that in order to be considered for final selection as a highly capable student, there shall exist evidence of one or more of the following characteristics:

1. Evidence that the student scores in the top ten percent in cognitive ability as demonstrated by a standardized ability test;
2. Evidence that the student scores in the top five percent in one or more specific academic achievement areas; and/or
3. Evidence that the student demonstrates behavioral characteristics for exceptional creativity.

Excel



**Enhanced Instruction
for Highly
Capable Students**

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they just open their gifts
at different times."*

For classes beginning
2008/2009