**Mrs. Shanna Weber**

**Gifted and Talented Teacher Resource Specialist**

**Grades 4-5**

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4-5 Gifted and Talented Programming

In keeping with our district’s mission statement, G&T programming fosters a love of learning where a student's passion can be explored. Our philosophy and programming are designed to address the needs of a range of high-ability learners both within the classroom and beyond. The intent of all G&T programming is to honor the "whole child, every child" in developing student competencies that forge lifelong learners.

*Please explore my website,* [*http://wwp4-5.sharpschool.com/enrichment/4-5\_gifted\_and\_talented\_programming*](http://wwp4-5.sharpschool.com/enrichment/4-5_gifted_and_talented_programming)*, for more information about philosophy and programming at the upper elementary schools.*

***For now, this quick AT A GLANCE should answer your immediate questions.***

1. **Students are not labeled as “gifted.”**

We follow the work of Dr. Joseph Renzulli based on the “Three rings” of **gifted behavior**:

Above average ability

Creativity

Task Commitment

Like Dr. Renzulli, we “believe gifted behaviors take place in certain people (not all people), at certain times (not all the time), and under certain circumstances (not all circumstances).”

**2. Identification is ongoing.** Students’ abilities, needs and interests are recognized and developed

through interactions with classroom teachers and the gifted and talented teacher resource specialists. Parent input is also welcomed. You can download a Parent Input Form from the district website. The form is **not** required.

1. **NO testing is required to “get into the GT program.”**  As Dr. Renzulli says, “gifted” is an adjective to describe behaviors that indicate abilities, interests, and needs that in order to be appropriately addressed may require differentiation in curriculum. No one test can adequately assess the complexities of giftedness. **Math ability and A&E Math testing are handled by the math department.**
2. **G&T Programming involves a range of opportunities.**

* **Classroom Differentiation -** WW-P is committed to a model that values differentiated instruction, where classroom teachers work to modify instruction, content, and assessments to match student ability levels. To that end, the G&T specialists work in classrooms with classroom teachers to provide additional support for students with high-abilities.
* **MAGIC – Motivation and Abilities Generate Innovations through Creativity -** G&T programming provides enrichment opportunities, called MAGIC, that are open for all students to explore their interests. There is no sign-up – students just show up! MAGIC typically takes place during lunch and/or recess no more than twice a week.
* G&T programming also addresses the unique social and emotional needs of gifted children by promoting self-awareness, self-efficacy, and cognitive and affective growth. Students may work in groups outside of class at times as part of this range of programming opportunities to identify and address students’ needs.