January 9, 2018

Dear Parents,

We are in the process of identifying students for Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) in the areas of Creativity, Leadership, and Visual and Performing Arts. If you have a 7th-8th grade student that is exceptional in one of these areas can request an application packet in the office. The packets are available now and are due to Ms. Grady no later than February 2, 2018. Please read over the questions below which describe how these areas of GATE identification are defined.

**How is Exceptional Ability defined?**

* Performing at a level that exceeds their chronological peers- the student may be advanced for their age or grade level
* Performing at a level that would widely be considered to be talented by the lay person- the student has talent identified by persons unfamiliar with techniques.
* Performing at a level that goes beyond the expectation of the activity- the student goes beyond mastering the content, into unique or creative ways to display their knowledge.

**What is Creative Ability?**

* Demonstrating exceptional ability in displaying ingenuity by producing unique or innovative solutions, or creating original products or ideas.
* What are some possible areas?

Creative writing, computer programming, engineering, science.

**What is Leadership Ability?**

* Demonstrating exceptional leadership demonstrates purpose in leading others to do what they could not or would not do alone.
* Demonstrating exceptional ability in showing confidence and effectively influencing others, exhibiting problem-solving and decision making, or leading others with a sense of purpose and direction.
* What are some possible areas?

School clubs, community organizations, church or youth activities in their neighborhoods.

**What is Visual & Performing Arts Ability?**

* Demonstrating exceptional ability in performance based showmanship, and/or the creation of products in the visual and performing arts.
* What are some possible areas?

Drama, dance, drawing, and music.

Parents will need to pick up an application in our office and provide three examples to support one of the specific areas above. One of your child’s samples must be a school-based assignment or project. There will be an optional portfolio tutorial held in room C-7 on Monday January 22, 2018 from 3:05-3:30. Please have your student attend the meeting and bring any samples that will be included in the portfolio. Once you have a completed packet, please return it to the office no later February 2, 2018.

Referrals will be reviewed by a team of staff at the site and district levels. Families will be notified via mail of new identifications.

Thank you,

Erin Grady

Gate Coordinator, JKMS