



Gifted Services Newsletter

Westwood Intermediate

Upcoming Events

⇒ Strategy Game Afternoon –

Thursday, November 17th, 3:20 – 4:30 p.m., WMS room 101

⇒ Math/Science Fun Fair

Saturday, November 19th, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (more details on pg. 3)

⇒ Gifted Services' Sponsored Family Event!

“The Works” is coming Saturday, January 21, 2012, 1 - 3 p.m. at Westwood Complex (www.theworks.org)

* More info arriving after winter break

Gifted Services Department

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Westwood Intermediate Gifted Services Parent Update Fall 2011

Greetings,

What a pleasure it has been to meet your student or to see them again. I look forward to seeing them about once a month for affective groups. During affective groups, students learn more about their own thinking. A wonderful thing for me has been watching our students through the years. Some students I met with in Kindergarten are now juniors in high school, and they still love getting together with a group to challenge their thinking, talk about current issues, and share perspectives. I look forward to meeting with your students over the next years as they are part of the Westwood community. In addition to sharing some upcoming events, I thought I would share with you a bit about Gifted Services. Please feel free to visit our website at www.springlakeparkschools.org/gt (which we are updating). We would also love your comments added to our GT blog. We are hoping to establish an online community with parents sharing reflections, concerns, and tips.

Regards,

Marianne Paulos

What are Levels of Service?

Gifted Services looks different between the different schools. However our district uses the model of *Levels of Service*. Below is a brief look at what that entails. For our identified students, the mainstay of our programming happens in the classroom. Classroom teachers personalize instruction to meet the needs of all learners. The cluster teachers have had additional training in designing learning experiences specifically for our gifted students.

Level 1: Services for **All** learners: Personalized learning experiences that are responsive to individual learners

- Differentiation
- Authentic Instruction
- Meaningful Relationships

Level 2: Services for **Many** learners: All learners are able to participate but not all will participate

- Academic Competitions
- Enrichment Opportunities
- High School Honors, Advanced Placement, and College in the School courses

Level 3: Services for **Some** learners: Learner participation is based on data and evidence of student programming needs (may include personalized interaction with gifted staff)

- Academic Competitions
- Enrichment Opportunities
- Proactive Groups
- Honors, Accelerated, Advanced Placement, and College in the School courses
- Post Secondary Enrollment Options
- Independent Study
- Cluster programming

Level 4: Services for **Few** student learners: Highly individualized experiences to meet student needs (includes personalized interaction with gifted staff)

- Academic Competitions
- Enrichment Opportunities
- Proactive Groups
- Honors, Accelerated, Advanced Placement, and College in the School courses
- Post Secondary Enrollment Options
- Independent Study
- Cluster Programming
- Mentorships/Internships
- Lighthouse Program
- Acceleration
- Dual Enrollment



Student Pathways

We strive to personalize for students in Spring Lake Park. There are multiple pathways students may follow during their K-12 education. To see some possible programming options for students within our system please visit http://www.springlakeparkschools.org/learning/gt_studentpathways.asp

What does a Gifted Coordinator do?

The role of the Gifted Coordinator is to coordinate the systems and programs that support student learning, particularly with students that display high abilities and related needs. This work includes working at the local, regional state, national level to promote high standards for gifted education, training and supporting teachers, and assuring that our district curriculum and programs meet the unique needs of these learners.

Some of our specific duties include:

- Coordinate academic enrichment, challenges and competitions
- Support teachers in the education of gifted and talented students
- Provide direct pro-active (affective) services to identified students
- Dialogue with parents and teachers regarding the needs of students
- Facilitate student identification

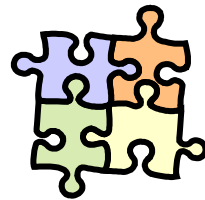


Have you visited our GT Blog?

We would love to have ongoing conversation on our GT blog. Please visit <http://www.springlakeparkschools.org/learning/gt.asp> and click on the "GT blog" link or go to <http://mpaulos.edublogs.org/>. Our first discussion is prompted by NAGC's Gifted Children's Bill of Rights.

Top Toys and Games

The recent Parenting for High Potential periodical included the 2011 National Association for Gifted Children review of toys and games. To read their review and link to the recommended toys from 2010 and 2009 visit <http://www.nagc.org/php.aspx>



Arts and Opportunities

This link will connect you with different Twin Cities arts and enrichment opportunities that can be enjoyed by individuals or families. <http://www.nemetro.k12.mn.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=473>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Strategy Game Afternoon – November 17, 3:20 – 4:30

If your child enjoys strategy games they are welcome to come and play strategy games with other students in Mrs. Paulos' room – WMS room 101. I will meet them in front of the cafeteria. If your children expressed interest when we met the week of Oct. 24, they were given a permission slip. If you need another one, please Email mpaulo@district16.org.

It's a Gifted Service's Sponsored Family Event!

"The Works" is coming January 21 from 1-3 p.m. to Westwood

The Works is a "hands-on, minds-on" museum that makes learning about engineering, science and technology interesting, understandable and fun. Please **'Save the Date'** to bring your family and enjoy unique exhibits that are designed for students ages 5 to 12.

Sample activities for this event:

- Circuit play (electrical)
- Liquid layers or fizz rockets or dry ice (chemical)
- Crazy Racers or catapults or pasta towers (mechanical or civil)
- Magnets or shapes and structures physical science or math/architecture)
- Estimation (math)



Please link to www.theworks.org for details about The Works. *More information will be coming home following winter break.*

Math/Science Fun Fair

Saturday, November 19, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (This **free** event is sponsored by the College of Science and Engineering K-12 Outreach Program.)

University of Minnesota, Coffman Memorial Union

This event includes fascinating activities, hands-on exhibits and entertaining presentations showcasing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

This year's highlights include:

- Interactive science and engineering exhibits
- Physics Force shows
- Energy and U shows
- Make your own earthquake
- Create your own color-changing jewelry
- Discover hidden micro-worlds
- Build your own FM radio while learning about circuitry
- Create origami to practice geometry skills and make beautiful works of art
- Control robots that can climb stairs, work in water, and fly
- And much more!

For more information and directions visit http://cse.umn.edu/k12/CSE_CONTENT_254378.php

Last year, families who participated reported that it was a great day!

What is Destination Imagination? Are you interested in being a DI coach?

Destination Imagination is a team-based creative problem-solving program that helps kids build skills in divergent thinking and teamwork. ***It is the world's largest creativity and problem solving competition.*** The competition for the North Metro is March 24.

For information visit: <http://www.idodi.org> or www.mndi.org

If you are interested in coaching a team of up to 7 students contact Marianne Paulos at mpaulo@district16.org