

FEEDBACK FORM
GIFTED PARENT FOCUS GROUP
April 18, 2007

1. What did I learn tonight that will help me as a parent?
 - How the extended learning program works now and what is planned
 - I will continue to encourage “extra” work. Will encourage my daughter to tell the teacher if she wants to “learn more” about specific topics.
 - Glad to hear to focus is NOT on the top 5% - but yet moving towards an individual program for the truly gifted
 - District is doing something for talented students
 - That there is going to be a more healthy look at learning
 - I was glad to learn that more is being done at the lower grade levels to expand the children’s learning
 - Reinforcement of teaching thinking skills
 - I learned about the different pieces to a gifted program (in class/out of class/identification/funding/etc.
 - I like the MAP testing idea to determine their “ceiling”
 - Future processes, initiatives and programs

2. What questions do I have as a result of tonight’s discussion?
 - I’m concerned about “clustering” or labeling children too early. 2nd grade is still basics – children are still blooming
 - Are the middle school classes (science & social studies) going to be also “clustered” or “sections” – same as math and LA
 - Will incoming 2nd graders receive a letter if they’ve been identified as an accelerated learner
 - I’m still unclear on how identification is being dealt with for next school year
 - Is there a parent committee for gifted students
 - I’d like to see more individualized contracts or projects in my child’s education – I have seen menu options which my child likes
 - I would like to learn how to help my learner

3. What information would I like to receive at the next parent focus group meeting?
 - Would like to hear more about the MAP system is working out
 - More understanding of the actual curriculum
 - More information of middle school programs
 - Motivation ideas
 - Parent education – learning styles – audio/visual, etc
 - How gifted children learn
 - 1-4 reps
 - 5-10 reps
 - Parent experiences
 - What can I do as a parent to improve the program
 - Keep up this communication – it is very helpful to have these dialogs

4. Comments:

- It is nice to know that you also feel that many gifts are not measured by test scores
- When will the MAP assessment begin
- I liked the direction that the gifted program will be taking. I especially like the concept of a gifted program which no one knows who is in it.
- I love the idea about:
 - Get teacher feedback
 - Parents give more information
 - Loved having school mirror the workplace
 - i.e. mentor program
 - i.e. committees (my company initiated an “apprentice” program to give new ideas and processes)