



# IMAGE

## Indian Mills Academic Gifted Education

### Program Rationale

New Jersey Administrative Code (N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3) states district boards of education shall:

- Be responsible for identifying gifted students and provide them with appropriate instructional adaptations and services.
- Make provisions for an ongoing identification process and appropriate educational challenges for gifted and talented students initiated in kindergarten and reviewed annually through grade 12.
- Develop appropriate curricular and instructional modifications used for gifted students indicating content, process, products, and learning environment.

### Philosophy

Shamong Township School District's view of gifted education acknowledges that students have unique values, needs, and talents. A gifted pull-out program is in place for identified students in grades K-8. The IMAGE Program enhances the development of social, intellectual, and emotional needs.



## Program Goals

Recognize and develop talents in advanced-level learners.

Develop complex, abstract, and higher level cognitive processes.

Develop problem-solving abilities.

Increase self-directed learning.

Help students reach potential.

Provide for social and emotional needs.

Critical thinking

Creative thinking

Evaluative thinking

Problem-based learning

Facilitate opportunities for new learning



## Curriculum

The IMAGE curriculum focuses on a multidisciplinary approach using higher level thinking skills. Curriculum is differentiated in content, process, and product from the regular grade level curriculum. The program is aligned with the NJ Student Learning Standards.

Components of the program may include:

- Logical thinking
- Reasoning and problem solving skills
- Critical and creative thinking
- Evaluative thinking
- Problem –based learning
- Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics (STEAM)

## Identification Process

The Shamong Township School District encourages equitable representation of student populations across the district. The identification process is completed on a yearly basis beginning in the spring. Eligibility is determined using the following multiple measures:

- Teacher recommendation (Kingore Observation Inventory)
- Parent recommendation
- SAGES assessment
- CogAT assessment
- STAR Scores—Reading/Math.

After an initial screening, a committee including the building principal, guidance counselor, IMAGE teacher, and other teachers meet to determine which students will qualify for further testing. Candidates meeting the initial criteria are given the Screening Assessment for Gifted Elementary Students and/or the CogAT. The committee meets again to determine eligibility for the program. Every effort is made to qualify a final candidate for the program. The multiple measures used above help assist the committee in matching a student's needs with appropriate services. Assessment is ongoing, and any student not qualifying may be reconsidered for the program in the future. A student who moves to Shamong from another district and was in the previous school's gifted program will be considered for IMAGE .

### **Final Determination**

Candidates meeting the initial criteria are given the Screening Assessment for Gifted Elementary Students or the CogAT.

The committee meets again to determine eligibility for the program. Every effort is made to qualify a final candidate for the program. Assessment is ongoing. Any student not qualifying may be reconsidered for the program in the future. A student who moves to Shamong from another district and was in the previous school's gifted program will be considered for IMAGE .

### **Services**

Administrators, guidance counselors, teachers, and the Gifted and Talented Teacher work collaboratively to meet the creative, intellectual, academic, social, and emotional needs of our gifted learners. We strive to provide our students with opportunities to think critically and creatively, problem solve, lead their peers, and practice the essential skills that are necessary to succeed in the 21st century. The purpose of our program is to service the student population who are in need of modifications in order to achieve in accordance with their capabilities. The Shamong Township School District takes into consideration students who may be underachieving, students with disabilities, and students from diverse or disadvantaged backgrounds.

The following services are provided by the Shamong Township School District:

- Differentiated Instruction
  - Instruction is differentiated within the general classroom setting by content, process, and product to meet the unique needs of the gifted learners.

- Elementary Daily Pull-Out Program
  - Identified Students in grades K-4 participate in a daily 35 minute pull-out program
- Middle School Pull-Out Program
  - Identified students in grades 5-8 receive 40 minutes of programming two times per week
- Enriched Math Program
  - Qualifying students receive daily enriched math instruction in grades 3-8

A BRIGHT CHILD

A GIFTED LEARNER

Knows the answers.

*Asks the questions.*

Is interested.

*Is highly curious.*

Is attentive.

*Is mentally involved.*

Has good ideas.

*Has wild, silly ideas.*

Works hard.

*Plays around, tests well.*

Answers questions.

*Discusses in details.*

Top group.

*Beyond top group.*

Listens with interest.

*Shows strong feelings.*

Learns with ease.

*Already knows.*

Understands ideas.

*Constructs abstractions.*

Enjoys peers.

*Prefers adults.*

Grasps meaning.

*Draws inferences.*

Copies accurately.

*Creates a new design.*

Absorbs information

*Manipulates information.*

Technician.

*Inventor*

Good memorizer.

*Good guesser.*

Is Alert

*Is keenly observant.*

Enjoys school.

*Enjoys learning.*

Is pleased with own learning.

*Thrives on complexity*

Is receptive

*Is intense.*

Completes assignments.

*Initiates projects.*

... Janice Szabos, Challenge Magazine