

Gifted and Talented Programming at PVRHS

New Jersey Administrative Code 6A:8-3.1 defines students who are gifted and talented as those students who possess or demonstrate high levels of ability in one or more content areas when compared to their chronological peers in the local district and who require modification of their educational program if they are to achieve in accordance with their capabilities.

The *N.J.A.C.* requires that students be compared to their chronological peers in the local school district. The New Jersey Department of Education has not established state-level criteria for identifying students who are gifted, such as mandated tests or assessments, grade point averages, or IQ scores. Local school districts must use multiple measures (see below) to identify students.

The academically Gifted and Talented Program at Passaic Valley Regional High School identifies, acknowledges and provides students with a variety of academic challenges in order for our gifted students to reach new levels of competencies. These exceptional students participate in various activities in an effort to promote self-confidence, respect for others, academic and personal growth, and the necessary skills needed to succeed in a competitive society.

The full text of the PVRHS district policy may be found [HERE](#).

Identification of Students and Continuum of Services:

All incoming 9th grade students participate in early-identification placement exams in ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies in the spring of their 8th grade year. These placement exams represent a rigorous cross-section of skills in each content area. Additional factors support the identification of gifted learners including teacher recommendations, standardized test scores, and historical academic records. Departmental rubrics outline expectations in alignment with state standards. As students progress through grades 10-12, these same rigorous standards are applied when determining if students are eligible for gifted and talented services as course

recommendations are made for the next school year (late winter/early spring.) Students are also identified for gifted programming in World Languages, Fine and Performing Arts, and Technology by teacher recommendation, review of historical academic records, and standardized test scores, and may be invited to join one of our many Honors Societies offered in the area of the student's expertise.

District Policy 2464 details expectations for Gifted and Talented programming. A detailed Program of Studies outlines all course expectations and differentiates between academic programming and gifted/advance learning. Students are expected to demonstrate eligibility via multiple measures of assessment/achievement including, but not limited to: teacher recommendation, historical academic records, placement exam scores, and standardized test scores. Students/parents expressing an interest in gifted programming should first meet with their School Counselor to review eligibility and expectations, followed by an audit of the student's performance, and entrance exam (if required.)

Teacher recommendations for gifted and talented programming consider the following factors. The student: possesses knowledge of the subject which is advanced for a student of his/her age and grade level; demonstrates mastery and recall of factual information; is a keen and alert observer; is absorbed and deeply involved in key topics; is self-motivated to follow through with work; possesses a great deal of curiosity about a variety of things, and demonstrates deep and critical thinking on the topic.

If a parent/guardian is not satisfied with the Gifted and Talented services their child is receiving, the parent/guardian should begin by reviewing the information that the district has provided regarding offered gifted and talented services. The parent/guardian should then reach out to their child's school counselor with questions or to discuss the services currently being provided. If there are further concerns that have not been satisfied, the parent/guardian may contact [Mrs. Tara Torres](#), Director of School Counseling. If the issue remains unresolved, the parent/guardian may submit their concerns in writing to [Dr. Bracken Healy](#), PVRHS Superintendent, with a copy sent to the [County Superintendent](#).