






Identification

The Omaha Public Schools' method of identifying gifted and talented students is modeled after the NAGC (National Association of Gifted Children). Identification includes performance at 130 or above on IQ assessments and 95% or above on any sub-test of the California Achievement Tests or NeSA tests. Selection for the Gifted and Talented program at McMillan can also be determined by a student's performance in certain courses. Identification encompasses the following five areas:

-  **Intellectual**
-  **Academic**
-  **Creative**
-  **Leadership**
-  **Visual/Performing Arts**

Middle school is an opportunity for students to self-select areas that allow them to explore and capitalize on their strengths, showcase their talents and excel. Whether it is found in their coursework, a competition, a contest or an extra-curricular activity, a student's giftedness and/or talents can blossom and develop at McMillan Magnet Center.

Academic Pentathlon



Contact Information

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Think Tank



*Programming supported by the
Omaha Public Schools
Office of Gifted and Talented Education*



*Programs and Opportunities
for
Gifted and Talented Students*



McMillan Magnet Center offers many academic courses and activities to enrich the curriculum established by the Omaha Public Schools. Our Gifted and Talented Program is designed for students who wish to be challenged through academic competition, honors courses, and special activities and programs. With our unique magnet offerings in mathematics, engineering, and technology, McMillan students can choose from a wide variety of educational opportunities.

Dr. Jeaneen Talbott, Principal
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Differentiation

In each and every McMillan classroom, we strive to meet the needs of all learners. Differentiation of instruction is the modification of the curriculum to match the abilities, needs, learning styles, and interests of our students. This is accomplished through the use of instructional strategies that will challenge all students. Pre-assessment, rubrics, pacing, high level questioning, scaffolding, compacting, and the acceleration of materials are all strategies that stretch the minds of our high ability learners. The McMillan faculty uses a variety of these strategies to help students take control of their learning and prepare for a rigorous high school curriculum.

Project Based Learning (PBL)

In PBL, students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to a complex question, problem, or challenge. Essential elements of PBL include:

21st century competencies - Students build competencies valuable for today's world, such as problem solving, critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity/innovation.

In-Depth Inquiry - Students are engaged in an extended, rigorous process of asking questions, using resources, and developing answers.

Driving Question - Project work is focused by an open-ended question that students understand and find intriguing, and frames their exploration.

Critique and Revision - The project includes processes for students to give and receive feedback on the quality of their work, leading them to make revisions or conduct further inquiry.

Public Audience - Students present their work to other people, beyond their classmates and teacher.

Gifted and Talented Activities

Mathematics

Competition Math
Math Club
Sixth Grade Math Contest
After School Computerized Math Lab

Engineering and Technology

Project Lead the Way
Architecture and Engineering
SAME/SIMP (Society of American Military Engineers/Student Initiative Mentoring)
Computer Programming
Graphic Design
Industrial Technology Competition
Robotics Competitions

Science

Science Club
Science Olympiad
Science Bowl
Science in Motion

Music

Monarch Pride (Honors Chorus)
Chamber Music
Blair Honor Band
All-City Music Festival
All-State Band
Omaha Area Youth Orchestra
String Olympics
Drumline

Social Studies

National Geography Bee
African American History Challenge



Language Arts

Bookblasters
Poetry Slam
Essay Contests

Across the Curriculum

Quiz Bowl
Academic Pentathlon
Student Ambassadors
National Junior Honor Society
The Scholars
Think Tank
Student Newspaper and Yearbook
Spelling Bee
Celebrate Creativity
Duke Talent Identification Program
Youth Volunteer Corps
Future Business Leaders of America

How do I get involved?

Students will be notified of upcoming opportunities through daily announcements, the McMillan website, the monthly newsletter, and classroom teachers. Students may participate through our Friday clubs, after school programs, or small groups held during class time.



Gifted and Talented News

January 2015 Edition

Every student. Every day. Prepared for success.

Spelling Bee: Congratulations to the fifty Monarch spellers who attended the school bee in December. Our four runners up were **Quincy Carlin**, **Luis Cuadra**, **Katryn Keesee**, and **Chavon Hawthorne**. Congratulations to **Evie Kay**, who is the 2015 Monarch Spelling Champion! **Evie** will compete in the District Bee on February 3rd at TAC. Good luck, Evie!

ACT Testing: Over 100 7th and 8th grade students will take the ACT test at McMillan on February 7, 2015. This is an important first step toward post high school education. Test preparation workshops will be offered in late January. Contact Mrs. Figueroa for more information.

Academic Pentathlon: The Monarchs are three time city and state champions in the Academic Pentathlon competition and have competed in the national competition each year. Our Pentathletes are looking forward to their first scrimmage on January 22nd and the regional meet on February 24th. This year's contest focuses on the theme of *Ingenuity and Innovation*. An afterschool program for prospective Pentathletes meets on Thursdays. See Ms. Reinhart (room 260) or Mrs. Figueroa (room 173) for more information.

Bookblasters: Calling all readers!! Bookblasters is prepared for takeoff! Team members are working hard to prepare for the March 26th contest when they test their knowledge of the twelve selected books. In this competition, questions are phrased so that the title of the book is the answer. Extra points are given for knowledge of the authors. See Mrs. Niemiec in room 172 for more information.

Spring Poetry SLAM: Calling all poets! Poetry comes alive as students perform original writings in a forum of collaboration and celebration at the **Poetry SLAM**. Students gather at Benson's P.S. Collective to take the stage and share their creations. Seasoned metro area poets will perform and model slam protocol. Talk with your Language Arts teacher or Mrs. Figueroa for more information.

Think Tank: The Monarchs had a great time at Think Tank at UNO on December 11. Think Tank is a problem solving competition where students use creativity, collaboration, communication, and teamwork to solve problems in a real world setting. This year's Think Tank students are Safiyah Abdessalam, Lyndsey Bateman, Diamon Bennet, Jacob Calhoun, Emma Dawkins, Karahn Gaymom, Liam McKain, Aaron Slachetka, Divyn Williams, and DaMeyohn Woods.

Quiz Bowl: For students who love a fast paced, academic, and team oriented environment, Quiz Bowl is for you! The Monarchs are practicing diligently as we pursue our 5th consecutive city championship and prepare for winter and spring competitions. Quiz Bowl meets afterschool on Tuesdays in room 173. All are welcome.

Upcoming tournaments include: Concordia, January 31st, Beveridge, February 21st, OPS Quad meet, February 25th, Brownell-Talbot, March 7th, and the OPS City Finals, March 24th.

African American History Challenge: The Monarchs are working to repeat last year's state championship and 3rd place national trophy. Students who enjoy history and a quiz-bowl atmosphere will love the African-American History Challenge! Practices are held in room 170 afterschool. See Mrs. Niemiec for more information.

The Scholars: The 8th grade Scholars toured both north and south Metro Community College campuses in October and attended an Etiquette 101 workshop and fine dining lunch in November. Eighth grade Scholars are Michaela Atkins, Burdette Becks, Arnett Bonner, Elisha Burts, Makenzi Dexter, India Grayson-Pattar, Angel Hayden, Lewis Kirke, Nadia Spurlock, and Zander Townsend-Longcrier.

The 7th Grade Scholars will go to Gallup University on February 19th for the Strengthfinders workshop. In March, the 7th grade Scholars will tour the UNO campus. Seventh grade Scholars are Lindsey Bateman, Rebecca Bernhardt-Schmidt, Luis Cuadra, Dejunae Dandridge, Karahn Gaymon, Janaya Hanks, Devon Mahone, Claudette Ndayisaba, Christian Reeves, and Say Wah.

Both 7th and 8th grade Scholars have registered for the February 2015 ACT test and will be meeting for test prep sessions in January.