

WALLA WALLA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EXPLORER PROGRAM (FOR HIGHLY CAPABLE STUDENTS)
PARENT PERMISSION AND NOMINATION FORM



The Explorer Program exists at both the elementary and middle school levels. At the elementary level, the focus is on math and science. At the middle school level, the focus is in the humanities (social studies and literature). The program is challenging and students will often have additional work to do, including in-class assignments, projects, and homework.

Gifted children have a definite set of characteristics. You may see some of these in your child:

- Learns new material faster, and at an earlier age, than peers.
- Remembers what has been learned, often making review unnecessary.
- Is able to deal with concepts that are too complex and abstract for age peers.
- Has a passionate interest in one or more topics; would spend all available time learning about that topic if s/he could.
- Does not need to watch the teacher to hear what is being said; can process more than one task at a time.
- Is very intense. Gets totally absorbed in activities and thoughts; may be reluctant to move from one subject area to another; may insist on mastering one thing before starting another. May experience periods of such fierce concentration that he is literally unaware of what is going on around him.
- Prefers complex and challenging tasks to “basic” or “busy” work. May change simple tasks or directions to more complex ones to keep interested.
- Has many, and sometimes unusual, interests, hobbies, and collections. May have a passionate interest, such as dinosaurs, that has lasted for many years

As with all good things, there are challenges associated with having outstanding talents. These challenges are often perceived as behavior, motivation, or attitude problems. The gifted child whose learning needs are not met in school might:

- Resist doing the work, or work in a sloppy, careless manner.
- Get frustrated with the pace of the class; become impatient when not called on to recite or respond; blurt out answer without raising hand.
- Rebel against routine and predictability; act out or disturb others.
- Ask embarrassing questions; demand good reasons for why things are done a certain way.
- Resist taking directions or orders; refuse to conform.
- Daydream.
- Monopolize class discussions; resist cooperative learning.
- Become bossy with teachers and peers.
- Become intolerant of imperfection in self and in others.
- Become super-sensitive to any form of criticism; cry easily.
- Become the “class clown”.

Child's Name _____ School _____

Name of parent(s) or legal guardian(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

Home Telephone _____ Work Telephone(s) _____

Child's birthdate _____ Grade _____ Teacher _____

Primary language spoken by the child: _____ Primary language spoken in the home: _____

Has your child been evaluated previously for the Walla Walla Explorer Program? No Yes

If yes, when? _____

I give permission for my child to be tested as part of the Explorer Program assessment and to be placed in the program if he/she qualifies.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Nomination initiated by: _____ Teacher _____ Parent _____ Administrator _____ Other (specify)

PLEASE ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE

Please answer the following questions using pronouns rather than the name of your child. Please include specific examples of your child's gifted characteristics (from the first page).

What special interests, hobbies, or activities does your child have and what does he/she do in spare time?

Does your child have any special accomplishments, past or present, which show initiative or perseverance?

Why do you feel your child would benefit from the Explorer Program? (Please attach another sheet of paper if you need additional space.)

What else would you like the committee to know about your child as he/she is considered for the Explorers program?

Deadline for Return of the Parent Nomination Form is:

Wednesday, March 10, 2010 for current students in grades 2-7