



TEACHING, LEARNING, AND LEADERSHIP

MEMORANDUM

September 15, 2020

FROM: Donna Brearley, Talented and Gifted (TAG) Program Coordinator

THROUGH: Terri H. Mozingo, Ed.D., Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership
Gerald R. Mann, Jr., Ed.D., Executive Director of Instructional Support

TO: Elementary and Middle School Principals

SUBJECT: 2020-21 Talented and Gifted (TAG) Identification

ACTION: Please review the memorandum and share with your TAG Designees.

SUMMARY

The shift in school operations to the Virtual PLUS+ model will affect the steps in Talented and Gifted (TAG) identification for the 2020-2021 school year. The following describes the modified process and related timeline.

Talented and Gifted (TAG) Identification Process 2020-2021

Incomplete Referrals From the Spring

Students will receive updated testing by appointment. Missing work samples will not be required. Any students who do not come in for testing will be offered the portfolio option with testing when we return to in-person learning.

Universal Screening

The Nagleri Nonverbal Aptitude Test, Ed. 3 (NNAT3) nor Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) testing are planned for SY 2020-2021 (Grades 1 and 3).

Digital portfolios will be developed for all 1st grade, 3rd grade, and all other referred students. These portfolios will be reviewed by a central committee at the end of the first semester, or earlier when in-person learning begins. Professional development around the portfolio will be provided synchronously on October 12, 2020, or asynchronously through a Canvas course.

New (in Division) Referrals - Deadline January 28, 2021 - Potentially No Placements until Fall 2021

Digital Portfolio Components: Reviewed/Scored in February –March by district-level committee
In-person testing scheduled as soon as possible for portfolios scoring ‘Superior.’

To ensure our parent community is aware of any changes to our usual procedures during Virtual Plus+, your assistance is requested to help communicate with parents via school newsletters or other communique. A sample announcement follows. Additional division level outreach will be on the ACPS website, Express, and other outlets as deemed appropriate.

Sample Announcement:

- *TAG Identification Update*
Under the Virtual PLUS+ model, TAG referrals in the process during the Spring will be closed out with limited in-person testing, if needed, by appointment during the first quarter. Parents will be contacted if it has been determined their child requires this type of assessment to complete the evaluation. Fall screening usually includes whole grade-level assessments given at grades one and three. This school year, none of these assessments are planned. In lieu of assessment data, all students in these grade levels, as well as any individual referrals, will build a digital portfolio of classwork during the first semester. Exemplary portfolios will then be scheduled for in-person testing as necessary. New referrals will be accepted until the end of the second quarter.

ACTION

The following timeline is recommended as a guide for this process.

Timeline	
September - December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grades 1, 3 (all students) – Selected activities added to digital portfolio on Canvas by the homeroom teacher, student selections encouraged• Grades K, 2 (new referrals) - Selected activities added to digital portfolio on Canvas by the homeroom teacher, student selections encouraged• Grades 4-8 (new referrals) - Portfolios developed for specific subject review based on the area of referral, includes teacher selected and student selections (Math, ELA, Science, Social Studies)
November	All new referrals: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teachers complete a Gifted Rating Scale (current and former teachers)• Review 1st quarter grades as an additional data point
January	If virtual instruction continues: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Testing by appointment for those with exemplary portfolios only• 2nd quarter grades will be used as an additional data point

New Students (Coming From Outside the Division)

Students coming from a gifted program in their previous school could be placed without additional testing using existing records. If testing is needed, then they will be scheduled by appointment.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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cc: Senior Leadership Team