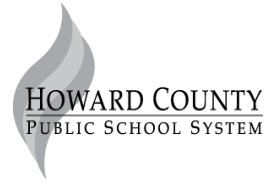


Wilde Lake Middle School

10481 Cross Fox Lane • Columbia, MD 21044 • 410-313-6957 • (F) 410-313-6963 • www.hcpss.org/wlms



Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Gifted and Talented Education Program (G/T) includes middle school G/T classes in the following areas: mathematics, English, science, and social studies. A distinguishing characteristic of gifted education classes is that the curriculum and instruction are differentiated in the following ways:

- Challenging curriculum provides appropriate levels of rigor.
- Instruction is at an accelerated pace with an expectation of increased student independence.
- Classes focus on increased depth and complexity of content.
- Instructional strategies appropriate for highly-able students are utilized.

The advanced-level *School and College Ability Test (SCAT)* is administered as one criterion for placement into middle school G/T content classes. The test has two parts:

- Math Reasoning Ability
- Verbal Reasoning Ability.

Parents/guardians of students new to the Howard County Public School System may request the administration of the *School and College Ability Test* by indicating permission for testing on the form below.

In addition to those students whose scores fall within the *SCAT* eligibility ranges, students also may be recommended to participate in G/T content area classes by the school's G/T Placement Committee. This committee meets to discuss multiple data points related to your child's performance, including additional assessment scores, student work samples, Instructional Seminar participation, and report card grades. Parents, students, or teachers may initiate this process at various points throughout middle school.

If you would like your child to be tested for possible participation in middle school G/T classes, please sign below and return this letter to the G/T Resource Teacher at your school no later than **Sept 4**. You will be notified of the testing results within a week of testing.

Should you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,
Mr. Doug Spicher
G/T Resource Teacher

I hereby give my consent for _____ in Grade _____ to be tested for consideration for Gifted and Talented Education Program classes.

I hereby withhold my consent for _____ in Grade _____ to be tested for consideration for Gifted and Talented Education Program classes.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date