

## 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. McMillan faculty use a variety of these strategies to help students take control of their learning and prepare for a rigorous high school curriculum.

## Rigor and Relevance

Rigor means that critical thinking takes place on a regular basis. It's a process that is a combined effort between teacher and student and requires high expectations from both. Instruction should engage students in challenging coursework that stretches them to go beyond just understanding. Rigor is made possible by relevance. Relevance focuses on the interest of the students and real world connections as it engages students in the learning process. The McMillan faculty believes in this concept and strives to incorporate this into our classrooms.

## Contact Information

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Office of Gifted and Talented Education



## Programs and Opportunities for Gifted and Talented Students

McMillan Magnet Center offers a wide variety of 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 opportunities. Combined with our unique magnet offerings in math, engineering, technology, and communication arts, McMillan offers students a wide variety of opportunities.

## Identification

The Omaha Public Schools' method of identifying gifted and talented students is modeled after the criteria established by the National Association of Gifted Children. Our identification encompasses five areas: **Intellectual** (130+ performance on a IQ test), **Academic** (above 95% performance on any subtest of the California Achievement Test), **Creative, Leadership, and Visual/Performing Arts**. The former three identifiers will emerge through opportunities found at McMillan.

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

## **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)  
Web Page Design  
Industrial Technology Competition  
Robotics Competitions

### **Communication Arts**

Student Newspaper and Yearbook  
Debate  
Spelling Bee  
Book Blasters  
Essay Contests  
Celebrate Creativity

### **Music**

Monarch Pride (Honors Chorus )  
Jazz Band  
Blair Honor Band  
All-City Music Festival  
String Olympics

## **Gifted and Talented Activities**

### **Science**

Science Club  
Science Olympiad  
Science in Motion  
UNL Science Bowl

### **Social Studies**

National History Day  
National Geography Bee  
African American History Challenge

### **Across the Curriculum**

Knowledge Bowl  
Quiz Bowl  
Student Ambassadors  
Leadership Service Learning  
National Junior Honor Society  
SAT and ACT Preparation  
Bridge Club  
Chess Club  
The Scholars  
Think Tank  
Duke Talent Identification Program



## **Lions' Pride**

In addition to offerings sponsored by the OPS Office of Gifted and Talented Education, McMillan is pleased to offer after-school extended learning opportunities. McMillan's Middle School Learning Community is an after-school partnership program between OPS, the YMCA, the Sherwood Foundation and the City of Omaha. Lions' Pride provides students with academic and cultural enrichment activities as well as recreational opportunities. Lions' Pride is in session every school day from 2:50-5:30 and is open to all McMillan students.

### **How do I get involved?**

Students will be notified of upcoming opportunities through daily announcements, the monthly newsletter, and their classroom teachers. Involvement in many of the competitions, productions, and other activities will require time out of class and/or after school meetings.