

Exceptional Learners: Gifted / Highly Talented Students

- Gifted and talented typically learn the LEAST in a school year
- Create multi-disciplinary lessons—start at the bottom of Bloom’s Taxonomy and quickly towards the top
- **Some characteristics of gifted children**
(Gifted students are NOT the same as high-achiever students)
 - Advanced language skills
 - Rapid learning rate, need for stimulation, resistant to drill and repetition
 - Excellent memory, attention to detail
 - Good problem solving, abstract reasoning, intellectual curiosity / insightfulness
 - Deep sense of fairness and moral justice, which can impact friendship development
 - Heightened sensitivity, empathy
 - Vivid imagination, keen humor, may appear inattentive
 - Demonstrates perseverance, perfectionism, fear of failure
 - They are the students who ask the insightful questions
 - Learn and read at an early age
 - Passionate about 1-2 topics
 - Conceptual thinkers
 - Passionate
 - Don’t need to watch teacher to understand a concept
 - May not be gifted in all subjects
- **How to know the needed of gifted children are NOT being met in school:**
 - Resist doing school or homework, or work done in sloppy / careless manner
 - Frustrated with pace of class
 - Rebel against routine and predictability
 - Ask embarrassing questions, demand good reasons for why things are done a certain way
 - Resist taking directions or orders
 - Daydream
 - Monopolize class discussions
 - Bossy with peers and/or teachers
 - Intolerant of own imperfections or those of others
 - React in a super sensitive way to any form of criticism or cry easily
 - Refuse to conform
 - Resist cooperative learning
 - Act out or disturb others
 - The “class clowns”
 - Blurt out answers without raising hands