Characteristics of Gifted Learners

There are common characteristics that many gifted individuals share. Have you ever noticed any of the following characteristics in your child?

- Unusual alertness, even in infancy
- Rapid learner; puts thoughts together quickly
- Excellent memory
- Unusually large vocabulary and complex sentence structure for age
- Advanced comprehension of word nuances, metaphors and abstract ideas
- Enjoys solving problems, especially with numbers and puzzles
- Often self-taught reading and writing skills as preschooler
- Deep, intense feelings and reactions
- Highly sensitive
- Thinking is abstract, complex, logical, and insightful
- Idealism and sense of justice at early age
- Concern with social and political issues and injustices
- Longer attention span and intense concentration
- Preoccupied with own thoughts—daydreamer
- Learn basic skills quickly and with little practice
- Asks probing questions
- Wide range of interests (or extreme focus in one area)
- Highly developed curiosity
- Interest in experimenting and doing things differently
- Puts idea or things together that are not typical
- Keen and/or unusual sense of humor
- Desire to organize people/things through games or complex schemas
- Vivid imaginations (and imaginary playmates when in preschool)

If several of these characteristics describe your child, you may want to consider testing to determine eligibility for gifted services. Please contact your child’s teacher, or the District Gifted Coordinator for information on testing and questions. You may also visit the districts website at rsd66.org for more information. Any parent/guardian may request testing to determine gifted eligibility, however, no testing will be completed without written parental consent.