

Identification—8th Grade

Students in 8th grade will be assessed for placement in the high ability program utilizing a multifaceted assessment process that includes qualitative, as well as quantitative data. Utilizing NWEA, a standardized achievement test designed to assess student achievement in reading, math and science as well as InView, an assessment of cognitive abilities that includes verbal reasoning, sequences, analogies and quantitative reasoning, students will be placed in high ability language arts, high ability math or high ability science based on performance scores on these assessment instruments.

InView provides a Quantitative Reasoning score and a Verbal Reasoning score that are used to make placement decisions. Students may qualify with a Verbal Reasoning or Quantitative Reasoning subscale score at the 96th percentile. Achievement scores on NWEA must also be at the 96th percentile or above. Students who meet these criteria are direct placements into high ability. Students who score within a *Standard Error of Measure (SEM)* with a Verbal Reasoning or Quantitative Reasoning score between the 90th and 95th percentile (these numbers correlate to the 8th stanine) will be further evaluated using SIGS (Scales for Identifying Gifted Students). Parent SIGS are used to inform the decision-making process. They are not used to determine placement. High ability educational program placements are a committee decision based on multiple assessment measures.

In the spring of 8th grade, parents will be notified if their student has qualifying scores. In the event that a student has qualifying scores or qualifies through the SEM window in a specific content area but not all available content areas, the parent will need to complete an appeals form along with supporting documentation. In order to avoid bias in the identification process, the reviews are done blindly; no student names are shared with the committee until after placement decisions have been made.