

GRADES SIX THROUGH EIGHT

At Maple School, the Navigate program identifies students from grades 6-8 in specific academic areas. In sixth grade, the mathematics curriculum is Navigate math grade 6. Students learn algebra in seventh grade, and geometry in eighth grade. All programs are supplemented with advanced problem solving.

For identified students in English Language Arts (ELA), Navigate begins a three-year sequence in grade six, which continues through seventh and eighth grades. The class meets daily, and includes in-depth analysis of literature, writing in various forms, as well as vocabulary and grammar. The curriculum has been designed to challenge these highly able students.

The needs of students in science and social studies are met through differentiated instruction.



IDENTIFICATION

The District 30 identification process follows research and best practice in the field of gifted education. Identification is not based on a single test score cut-off or a single subjective criterion, thus ensuring the proper use of assessment information.

Objective criteria include several standardized achievement test scores, specific academic subject area tests, and general cognitive assessments. Local percentiles, i.e. student performance as compared to the District peer group, are used when available; otherwise, national percentile scores are used. Multiple scores assure accurate representation of a child's performance and potential. Placement decisions are determined each fall. Every student is evaluated every year for participation in the Navigate program. All students are evaluated in the spring of fifth grade for placement at Maple. Students new to the District or those who demonstrate ability commensurate to those in the program may be included at a later time.



Northbrook | Glenview
School District 30



NAVIGATE Gifted Education Program

Dr. Brian Wegley - Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Melissa Hirsch - Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Sam Kurtz - Principal, Maple School

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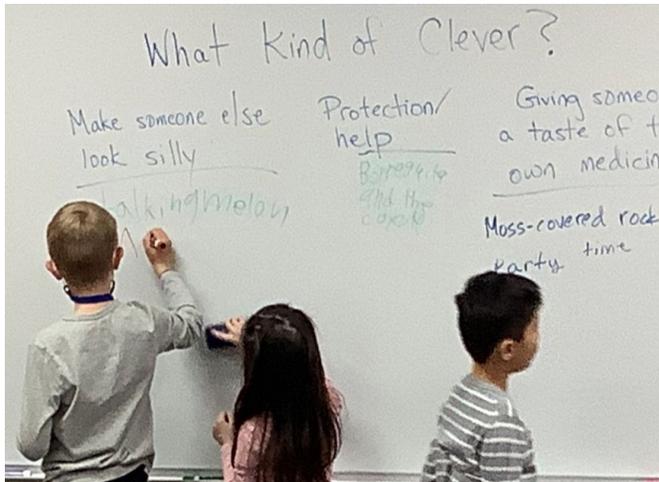
COMMUNICATION

Each fall, an informational parent meeting is held. This meeting highlights the Navigate program in Grades 1-5. All District 30 parents are invited to attend. As Maple Navigate classes are part of the daily schedule, teachers inform parents at Maple's Open House in the fall.

PHILOSOPHY

In keeping with the District 30 Echo, we strive to be a community that craves learning, fosters resiliency, and cares deeply for every child. Gifted and talented children in District 30 exhibit academic aptitude and/or achievement significantly beyond their peers and demonstrate high-level thought processes on a consistent basis. We recognize our responsibility to provide an educational program specifically designed to meet the academic and affective needs of gifted and talented students. In order for these students to most effectively translate potential into performance, they need acceleration and/or enrichment of content, an instructional approach to their academic program that incorporates rigorous curriculum, and an emphasis on abstract and higher-order thinking.

Students who participate in the Navigate program are described as having outstanding abilities or the capability for high performance in the areas of English Language Arts or Mathematics. A pull-out program in grades 1-5 and a replacement program in grades 6-8, along with collaboration with classroom teachers, are essential components of services provided by the Navigate staff.



GOALS

The goals of the Navigate program are directly related to the characteristics and needs of gifted and talented students. Navigate programming emphasizes critical and creative thinking, problem solving, decision-making, research, written expression, and oral presentation of ideas. These skills link thinking and learning across curricular areas.

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten is an exciting year of growth and development for our youngest learners. While we do not have a Navigate program in Kindergarten, the gifted specialists are available to work with the classroom teachers to recognize early academic talent and differentiate instruction within the classroom to meet the needs of these students.



GRADES ONE THROUGH FIVE

The Navigate program in Grades 1-5 is designed to provide students with a rigorous English Language Arts (ELA) program in the areas of reading and writing, and a mathematics program to enhance and further develop advanced problem-solving ability. Students are identified separately for each subject and are seen in a small-group pull-out setting during the ELA or mathematics block. Instructional time increases as students move from Grades 1-3 to Grades 4 and 5. In all grades, gifted specialists work with classroom teachers to design and implement differentiation of instruction.

Units of instruction are designed to challenge gifted learners and follow the goals of the program. Emphasis is placed on the development of skills necessary for students to progress as independent learners and problem solvers.

The Navigate curriculum is designed to elicit higher-level thinking using a variety of modalities. Mathematics follows a "levels of service" model as our advanced students participate in a fast-paced, differentiated math class in fourth and fifth grades. Navigate students are pulled twice weekly from this already challenging class. In fifth grade, ELA groups meet three hours per week, as gifted ELA students of this age need more experiences with complex literature, requiring the increase in class time.

The needs of gifted and talented students in the other academic content areas are addressed through differentiation in the classroom. Gifted education specialists collaborate with classroom teachers to provide a suitably rigorous curriculum for these able learners.