

Mission Statement

The South Hackensack School District is committed to meeting the needs of our gifted learners, and has created an environment that addresses our student's unique learning styles. Our Gifted and Talented Program program is designed to meet the needs of those students who require an extension to the differentiated curriculum in an environment that addresses their unique learning styles. We strive to accomplish this through providing a rigorous program of studies which includes: challenging, relevant content requiring higher order thinking skills; a focus on the development of independent study; a supportive environment conducive to risk-taking; opportunities for creative expression and problem solving; and collaboration with other students of similar abilities.

As a district, South Hackensack believes in the importance of universal screening, and we use specific methods appropriate to each of the three program areas, K-8, including aptitude tests, cognitive ability tests, local checklists, and extensive teacher evaluations through Renzulli Scales. We utilize the local norm data, since these comparisons are consistent with the definition of giftedness first advanced in the influential U.S. Department of Education **“National Excellence” report**, which recommended identifying student abilities only in comparison “with others of their age, experience, or environment.”