

GIFTED & TALENTED PROGRAM

GIFTED STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

Working with our sending districts, Eastern works directly with sending districts' administrative teams and guidance departments to identify all 8th graders entering Eastern Regional High School by:

- Hosting information sessions during Back to School Nights at local schools where parents can learn more about the Gifted program and testing used to identify eligible students
- Mailing out program and test registration materials to all incoming 8th graders for sending districts and local private schools
- Program and testing information is also posted on sending districts' webpages as well as Eastern's homepage
- Established an Eastern Student Liaison position to communicate with parents about the program from a student's perspective
- Register interested incoming eighth graders or transfer students for testing
- Administer COGAT Form 8 Level 13/14 tests along with students completing applications addressing questions based on the Autonomous Learner Model
- Conduct portfolio reviews and interviews as needed for special circumstances

GIFTED STUDENT SERVICES

Eastern's program is offered throughout the four years students are in attendance. In addition to the four courses offered, one per year, Gifted students can participate in enrichment programs along with developing their own initiatives.

- ***On and Off Campus Speaker Events*** – students may select to attend guest lecture opportunities based on interest. Speakers have included: local professionals, visiting scholars, artists, leaders in business, education and humanitarian works

- ***University Sponsored Conferences & Competitions*** – students are encouraged to participate in academic conferences and competitions such as Model United Nations, Model Congress, and Investment Team programs to explore their interests in international affairs and business. The Delaware Valley region provides ample opportunities to supplement the Gifted students interests in art, music, politics, and community service.

- ***Student Initiatives*** – Gifted students are encouraged to employ learned skills while pursuing their passions by designing and implementing initiatives. Some initiatives include Hope Holds Strong, a scholarship fund that provides last dollars for seniors heading off to college; Jaipur Foot, Unified for Unifat, Dilemmas and Dishes, are examples of humanitarian-based initiatives with the goal of raising funds and awareness for various causes;

- ***Academic Counseling*** – The Gifted Coordinator works with students one-on-one to provide academic counseling for course selection throughout their time at Eastern and identifying summer program opportunities that best complement students' interests.

- ***College Counseling*** – At the beginning of junior year, Gifted students are engaged in comprehensive college counseling which includes: evaluating school programs, interviewing admission officers, reviewing college finances, completing writing samples for scholarships and supplements. Conferences are held throughout junior year so that in June they are well prepared to apply in the fall of their senior year. Additionally, college counseling extends through senior year to evaluate offers, acceptances and university course selection for one's freshman year.