

STUDENT SERVICES

Program Description

Medicine Hat Catholic
Separate Regional Division #20



GIFTED AND TALENTED
Exceptional Code 80

Program Description

While recognizing that the Alberta Learning definition of Gifted and Talented encompasses seven areas, Medicine Hat Catholic Regional Schools will focus programming on students who demonstrate superior intellectual ability as their target audience for Gifted and Talented Programming.

Research indicates that without appropriate intervention, it is unlikely that these students will fully develop and express their gifts and talents. The gifted student is one who requires differentiated provisions and programming beyond the regular school program to realize his or her contribution to self and society.

Individual student's needs may be met in a variety of methods and settings.

Eligibility Criteria and Referral Process

Alberta Learning Definition of Giftedness

Giftedness is exceptional potential and/or performance across a wide range of abilities in one or more of the following areas:

- General intellectual
- Specific academic
- Creative thinking
- Social
- Musical
- Artistic
- Kinesthetic

For further explanations regarding these areas, refer *Teaching Students Who Are Gifted and Talented, Book 7*.¹

Referrals may be made by Teachers to the Special Education Facilitator and/or School Administrator. The Classroom Teacher will discuss the referral with student and consult with Parent/Guardian. A copy of the Student Record from the student's CAT test results will be

¹ Alberta Learning Special Programs Branch, *Teaching Students Who are Gifted and Talented, Book 7, Programming for Students with Special Needs Series*, (Alberta,2000)



included. The Gifted and Talented Identification form will need to be filled out by the Parent and the Individual Rating Scale (Teacher Nomination) is to be completed by the teacher and turned into the Director of Special Education. A cognitive assessment will then be completed. Referrals for other supports may be considered as needed such as Mental Health Consultant, or Family School Liaison Worker

“The heart of the intelligent acquires learning, the ears of the wise search for knowledge.” (Proverbs 18)

“A life incarcerated by ignorance, drug abuse, or neglect can be diminished even further by reducing the marvelous, mysterious expanse of all the cosmos, to the small and sterile world of survival. All men and women are called to relish the vibrant life God has fashioned for them, not just those who are sound of mind and the steady of limb.”²

² Canadian Catholic School Trustees’ Association, *Build Bethlehem Everywhere/A Statement on Catholic Education*. (Ontario, 2002), p. 6.

