Is the curriculum different in the gifted classroom than in the general education classroom?

Gifted curriculum consists of the grade level Florida State Standards along with the Florida Frameworks for Gifted K-12 Education. These frameworks include goals and objectives based on student strengths and interests which address the needs of gifted learners and are included in your child’s Gifted Education Plan.

Will the teacher of the gifted have additional training beyond the general education requirement?

Yes. Teachers of the gifted must have 300 additional hours of graduate-level coursework to earn the gifted endorsement. Teachers who are teaching out-of-field must take at least 2 courses during the first year of teaching gifted learners, at least 2 the second year and the last by the third year (per state mandate). The courses are: Guidance and Counseling for the Gifted, Curriculum Development for the Gifted, Education of Special Populations of Gifted Children, Nature and Needs of the Gifted and Theory of Creativity for the Gifted.

Is it true that there will there be too much homework and project work to be completed at home when a child is in the gifted program?

No. This is a common misperception. The gifted classroom provides students learning opportunities that are different work presented differently, but not more work. Most of the work is expected to be completed during the school day. There should not be any more homework than in the general education classroom.

Is moving my child to a gifted elementary site better than STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) or similar programs?

The gifted classroom focuses learning based upon student strengths and interests, as supported by research. A student who is strong and interested in math and science will have extensive learning opportunities along with the compacting and adjustment of pace within those disciplines. The student will also be working on critical thinking and problem solving to best meet his/her learning needs.

What happens if my child moves to the gifted classroom and finds it too difficult?

If you or your child feel that he/she is struggling, please schedule a conference with your child’s teacher to discuss your concerns. You reserve the right to move your child back to the general education classroom if you feel that the gifted classroom is not the right fit at the time. Your child will be eligible for gifted services when and if you feel that the gifted classroom is the right fit in the future.

If my child is in the gifted classroom in elementary, what happens when he/she goes to middle school and high school?

Gifted services are available through high school graduation. Middle school students receive gifted services by subject area along with other gifted and often advanced learners, taught by teachers of the gifted. High school students choose their programs of rigor based on their strengths and interests and receive their gifted services from consultation teachers of the gifted.