



Maximizing Outstanding Student Achievement, through Instruction, Curriculum and Support  
**Gifted Education Program**  
Parkway School District

**Philosophy**

Parkway School District believes in challenging all students to reach their full potential. The K-12 gifted services and MOSAICS programming offered by Parkway School District evolves from a belief in providing a broad spectrum of specialized services to maximize each individual student's intellect and creativity. Depending on the developmental level of the identified gifted students, delivery of services includes interest assessment, exploratory experiences, curriculum compacting and differentiation, process skill instruction, curriculum acceleration, mentoring, access to advanced technologies, advanced levels of research, and assistance in locating appropriate audiences and outlets for their diverse presentations and products.

Another component to the gifted services in Parkway is the MOSAICS Academy for exceptionally gifted students. This is a centralized self-contained program. Students who qualify for this program enroll at Pierremont Elementary and attend this school full time. The students are integrated within the school community for art, physical education and music classes. The curriculum is trans-disciplinary with an international focus, incorporating Missouri's grade level expectations and the Common Core Standards. Student inquiry helps guide the learning process.

**Mission and Goals**

Parkway's gifted services and MOSAICS programming provides unique learning experiences for all students through MOSAICS Level 1 differentiation support and enrichment. Through MOSAICS Level 2 services students are provided unique enrichment opportunities that build on individual strength areas. Identified gifted students receive services through MOSAICS Level 3 state assisted gifted services. Students are exposed to learning in the arts, sciences, mathematics, and a variety of forms of communication and technology. The goals of the Parkway School District MOSAICS Gifted Program are to provide an environment that meets the needs of each student through experiences that strengthen the students' higher order thinking skills, nurture their creative abilities, and assist in their social/emotional development.

**Curriculum**

The MOSAICS Gifted Education Curriculum Guide outlines and defines the gifted education services and programming in Parkway school District. The foundation for the guide is a consensus of beliefs about the nature and unique needs of gifted learners, and about differentiated curriculum, instruction, and assessment to meet those needs.

The Parkway Gifted Education Curriculum Guide describes the Curriculum Strands, Major Learnings, and Assessment Benchmarks for each grade (K-12) of services and programming.

### **Screening and Evaluation of Students**

The Parkway MOSAICS Gifted Education Program offers instruction to MOSAICS Level 3 students who are identified as gifted by Parkway School District and **state guidelines** and who *need* the services of this program. Parkway uses a multi-criteria approach to making placement decisions for this level of the program. The student selection process consists of two main stages: Referral/Screening and Individual Evaluation/Selection. A student may be referred for screening by a staff member familiar with the student, a parent, or the student himself. Screening information on the student is gathered from nationally-normed achievement test scores (when available), an individualized test of school acquired information and reasoning, previous grades, anecdotal records, and teacher/parent recommendations. Individual evaluation/selection includes gathering of data on each qualifying student from measures of general mental ability, academic ability, creativity, reasoning, problem-solving, and performance.

### **Delivery of Services:**

**The primary and elementary students** who are identified for MOSAICS Level 3 are pulled from the regular classroom for 240-300 minutes per week, depending on the total caseload of identified gifted students at each school.

While with the MOSAICS gifted specialist, the students may be serviced individually, and/or within groups by age/grade, in a multi-age grouping, by interests, or by the needed process skills as identified by the specialist. Special arrangements are made for additional time outside the classroom in the form of: field trips, guest speakers, student demonstrations, competitions, educational exhibits, etc.

Also, all MOSAICS gifted specialists will assist classroom teachers to modify curriculum to meet the needs of gifted students within the setting of the regular classroom by offering resources and training in strategies for compacting the curriculum, acceleration, differentiation, and enrichment.

**The MOSAICS gifted program at the middle school level** is of a general academic nature including grades 6, 7, and 8. Comprehensive, differentiated and multi-disciplinary curriculum programming incorporates thematic, useful and timely content, process learning, creative production, assessment, consideration of affective and leadership issues, and models of reflective practice. Middle school students receive services as part of the curricular day (every other day, alternating with physical education), or by revolving out of a compacted class.

**Students at the high school level** receive services through a MOSAICS gifted resource specialist liaison. This specialist is available to assist freshmen students with planning and goal setting and to provide support with academic studies.

For more information please contact the Curriculum Coordinator, Dr. Denise Farinella, at (314) 415-7052.