

## Eligibility for Spratley Gifted Center

Spratley provides a full time program for *identified gifted* students who have highly advanced skills and aptitudes and who have demonstrated their capacity for complex thinking and abstract reasoning.

In order to be eligible for Spratley, a student must be identified as gifted and be eligible for full time gifted services, as determined through the Hampton City Schools eligibility process. Since the criteria for gifted identification is different in each school division in Virginia, as well as in each state, previous gifted identification in another division or state does not guarantee eligibility for Spratley.

The first step in the eligibility process is for the parent to complete a referral form, which can be obtained from your HCS school counselor, from the Department of Academic Advancement and Enrichment (DAAE) office, or from the DAAE gifted website. The eligibility committee looks at scores on two ability tests (not achievement tests or SOL tests), grades, teacher rating scales, and parent rating scales. The evaluation process can be quite lengthy, and includes the administration of ability tests as needed. More information about the HCS eligibility process is on the website at <http://www.sbo.hampton.k12.va.us/departments/gifted/gifted.html> or can be obtained by calling the DAAE office at 757-727-2160, or by emailing [gifted@hampton.k12.va.us](mailto:gifted@hampton.k12.va.us).

Please note:

- ⇒ If the student is transferring to Hampton City Schools from out of state, please contact the DAAE office as far ahead of the move as possible, to make sure information is received in a timely manner.
- ⇒ Eligibility testing is not generally done during the summer. Hampton City Schools students and private school students should start the referral process as early as February or March for consideration for the following school year.
- ⇒ Students must have a valid Hampton address prior to being evaluated.
- ⇒ If you are a military family being transferred to Hampton, please let the DAAE office know as soon as possible, so that we can get your gifted child situated quickly.
- ⇒ Please be aware that “gifted IEPs” are not recognized in Virginia, but we will work closely with out of state gifted students to determine their needs and placement.
- ⇒ Grades are only a small factor in the gifted eligibility process. Some students with straight As may not be eligible, and some students with lower grades may be eligible. We are looking at critical thinking and abstract reasoning skills more than accelerated reading or math achievement.
- ⇒ There is no “sibling rule” for Spratley. Every student at Spratley must meet the eligibility criteria.
- ⇒ Not all of our identified gifted students meet the criteria for placement in the full time center at Spratley. We do offer pull-out gifted resource classes in all of our elementary schools, and offer special seminars for our middle school gifted students.