

Lower Merion School District

301 East Montgomery Ave.

Ardmore, PA 19003-3399

Phone: 610-645-1800 ♦ www.lmsd.org



Dear Families and Guardians of Students in First Grade:

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to share information with you about the process to universally screen students in first grade for gifted education.

Screening is the systematic determination of whether or not a student should be evaluated for gifted education, and a universal screening process helps to ensure equity and access to gifted education services within our system. The process is informed by multiple sources of information, most of which already exist, including results of curriculum-based assessments and achievement tests as well as observations of student work samples. Other educational factors, such as observations of well-developed communication skills or academic creativity and the presence of intervening factors, such as race bias or limited English proficiency, which may be masking giftedness, are considered as well. The new piece of data that informs this process is a group ability test. The group ability test administered to first grade students is the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test- Third Edition (NNAT3), and the process is conducted in the spring to help ensure that multiple data sources are available so that patterns in performance stand out.

On Tuesday, March 24th at Belmont Hills Elementary School, all first-grade students will begin the universal screening process with administration of the NNAT3. All first grade students have the opportunity to participate in NNAT3 administration as part of a universal screening process **except** for students already identified as gifted, those currently being evaluated, and those already screened or evaluated within the past 12 months. Since this process is universal for all first grade students, the District maintains implied consent.

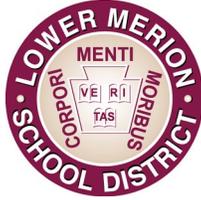
NNAT3 test administration will last approximately one hour in order to distribute and collect materials, read directions and complete sample questions, although this timed test lasts only 30 minutes. An alternate educational activity will be planned for students who do not participate.

Ability test results will be mailed home upon school receipt of them, which is anticipated by late May or early June. Building achievement teams will also review these results along with other existing information sources to determine the need for evaluation for gifted education. If achievement teams determine data indicate such need, they will contact families or guardians to request permission to further evaluate.

Given that the District maintains implied consent for this process, if you refuse your child's participation in it, then please complete and return the attached form no later than the end of the day on Thursday, March 5, 2020. Thank you for your attention and please direct any inquiries to me.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Robin Klaiber
Principal

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Please complete the form below if you refuse your child's participation in the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test- Third Edition (NNAT3), which is part of the universal screening process for gifted education in first grade. Please return this form to your child's teacher not later than **Thursday, March 5th**.

I, _____ (print name of parent/guardian), refuse
my child's, _____ (print name of child),
participation in the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test- Third Edition (NNAT3) administration, which is part
of the universal screening process for gifted education in first grade.