



Characteristics of Highly Capable Students

Part I: Learning Characteristics:

- ✓ Has unusually advanced vocabulary for age or grade level; uses terms in a meaningful way; has verbal behavior characterized by “richness” of expression, elaboration and fluency.
- ✓ Possesses a large storehouse of information about a variety of topics.
- ✓ Has quick mastery and recall of factual information.
- ✓ Has rapid insight into cause-effect relationship; tries to discover the how and why of things; asks many provocative questions.
- ✓ Has a ready grasp of underlying principles and can quickly make valid generalizations about events, people and things.
- ✓ Is a keen and alert observer; usually “sees more” or “gets more” out of a story, film, etc., than others.
- ✓ Reads a great deal on his/her own; usually prefers adult level books; does not avoid difficult material.
- ✓ Tries to understand complicated material by separating it into its respective parts; reasons things out for himself/herself.

Part II: Motivational Characteristics:

- ✓ Becomes absorbed and truly involved in certain topics or problems; is persistent in seeking task completion.
- ✓ Is easily bored with routine tasks.
- ✓ Needs little external motivation to follow through in work that initially excites him/her.
- ✓ Strives toward perfection; is self critical; is not easily satisfied with his/her own speed or products.
- ✓ Prefers to work independently; requires little direction from teachers.
- ✓ Is interested in many “adult” problems such as religion, politics, and race -- more than usual for age level.
- ✓ Often is self assertive (sometimes even aggressive); stubborn in his/her beliefs.
- ✓ Likes to organize and bring structure to things, people and situations.
- ✓ Is quite concerned with right and wrong, good and bad; often evaluates and passes

judgment on events, people and things.

✓ **Part III: Creativity Characteristics:**

- ✓ Displays a great deal of curiosity about many things; is constantly asking questions about anything and everything.
- ✓ Generates a large number of ideas or solutions to problems and questions; often offers unusual (“way out”), unique, clever responses.
- ✓ Is uninhibited in expression of opinion; is sometimes radical and spirited in disagreement; is tenacious.
- ✓ Is a high risk taker; is adventurous and speculative.
- ✓ Displays a good deal of intellectual playfulness; fantasizes; imagines (“I wonder what would happen if ...”); manipulates ideas (i.e., changes, , elaborates upon them); is often concerned with adapting, improving and modifying institutions, objects, and systems.
- ✓ Displays a keen sense of humor and sees humor in situations that may not appear to be humorous to others.
- ✓ Is unusually aware of his/her impulses and more open to the irrational in himself/herself expression of feminine interest for boys, greater than usual amount of independence for girls); shows emotional sensitivity.
- ✓ Is sensitive to beauty; attends to aesthetic characteristics of things.
- ✓ Is nonconforming; accepts disorder; is not interested in details; is individualistic; does not fear being different.
- ✓ Criticizes constructively; is unwilling to accept authoritarian pronouncements without critical examination.