

Gifted & Talented Programs

Diversity of the Gifted

Understanding the DIVERSITY of the Gifted (Bertie Kingore)

- Being gifted is like having a really nice car. But the environment in which you drive affects your forward momentum.
- Being gifted is like having a really nice high-performance car. But the environment in which you drive impacts your forward momentum.
- Gifted children from a nurtured and enriched environment have the car with an outside accessory package. Everyone can see, admire, and serve the talents.
- A gifted child from a low socioeconomic background has the car but may not have the keys to drive it yet.
- Gifted children who are highly gifted prodigies have the car but may only be allowed to drive within the city limits and must follow all the usual traffic signs such as slow, caution, speed limit, and stop.
- Gifted children who underachieve have the car but they don't drive it. It remains parked in the garage.
- Gifted children in primary grades have the car but often their keys are taken away because they're considered too young to drive.
- A gifted child whose native language isn't English has the car, but the signs and directions are in another language so she or he cannot go anywhere.
- Gifted children who have ADD/ADHD have the car, but the electrical ignition system is wired differently so it stays in motion when others want it to stop.
- A gifted child from a culturally diverse background has the car, but it may be covered in shrink-wrap which clouds his or her potential.
- Gifted children who have physical challenges have the car but the air conditioning may be broken. The mechanics focus on fixing the air conditioning so the cars never get to be driven.
- A gifted female has the car but may not drive it for fear of what others think.
- Being gifted is like having a really nice car. Our challenge as educators and parents is to become sensitive to the diversity of the gifted so their cars can safely enter the high-speed freeway of learning.