

SKAMANIA SCHOOL DISTRICT

No. 2

Superintendent
Milt Dennison

Head Teacher
Katie Chavarria

School Board
Angus Anderson
Rowdy LaFevers
Cynthia Medlin
Lisa Young
Donald Collins

September 20, 2023

Dear Skamania Parents/Guardians,

Greetings. The purpose of this letter is to tell you about our school's **Highly Capable (HiCap) Program**. Washington state law (RCW 28A 185.020) finds that, for highly capable students, access to accelerated learning and enhanced instruction is access to a basic education. As such, schools are required to provide accelerated and individualized learning opportunities for highly capable students. Skamania School District strives to provide these learning opportunities for our highly capable students. These opportunities are provided in a variety of ways—both in and out of the classroom.

Students who display exceptional cognitive, academic, and/or creative abilities may be eligible for enrollment in the HiCap Program. One method of consideration is for a student to earn a qualifying score on a standardized assessment of intellectual ability. Beginning this year, the school district will administer the **Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)** to all 2nd and 5th graders and to any other students who are referred by parents, teachers, or community members. Students receive a score on a scale of 1 to 9 on the CogAT. Students who earn a 9 automatically qualify. Additional information is considered for those who earn lower scores—with some priority given to those who earn a 7 or 8. Parents/guardians who believe that their student may qualify and benefit from our highly capable program can obtain a parent referral form from our website (www.skamaniaschooldistrict.org) or by contacting the office.

If you are the parent of a 2nd or 5th grade student, and you do NOT want your child to be tested, please complete the attached opt out form and return it to the office immediately. We will begin administering the CoGAT during the **week of October 23**. If you are the **parent of a student in grades K-1 or 3-8** who would like to have your child tested, please complete and return the parent referral/permission packet to the office by **December 13**. Your child will then be screened using multiple data sources as outlined in the parent referral packet. The CogAT is just one part of the screening process. The HiCap screening committee will also consider other standardized test scores, classroom performance measures, parent input, and teacher observations. Please call or email Mrs. Chavarria at 509-427-8239 or kchavarria@skamania.k12.wa.us if you have any questions about our HiCap Program or the screening process.

Sincerely,

Milt Dennison
Superintendent

Katie Chavarria
Head Teacher