

Gifted Program Mission Statement

The mission of Maumee City Schools BRIDGE Program is to:

- Facilitate the development of the gifted child by addressing his/her unique needs academically, socially and emotionally.
- Enhance the academic achievement and motivation of gifted students by engaging them in an academically enriched and accelerated curriculum structured to meet their needs.
- Give the gifted students the necessary tools to help them understand and use effective problem solving and decision-making strategies to prepare them for a meaningful participation in future endeavors and a global society.
- Allow them the opportunity to interact and learn from their academically and socially similar peers.

What Happens in BRIDGE?

Qualifying 4th and 5th grade students are invited to participate in BRIDGE. These students receive daily Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics specialized instruction to meet each gifted students academic needs. The BRIDGE teams of teachers at each grade level are certified in gifted education in collaboration with Mrs. Pickle, Gifted Intervention Specialist and Universal Design for Learning Coach, provides instruction for the students.

The curriculum is based on current educational research and aligned with Ohio's New Learning Standards. It is also designed to include advanced problem

solving, research, product design, and projects requiring creativity, individual, and group work. BRIDGE students, while mixed with the general population in other classes, may receive enrichment, differentiated instruction and assessments in other academic areas as determined by the area of identified strength.

Homework and student product expectations are set by individual teachers and gifted intervention specialist and are appropriate with the ability level of the students.

Where is BRIDGE Held?

The 4th and 5th grade BRIDGE classes are held at Wayne Trail Elementary School and meet daily throughout the school year.

Does my child have to participate?

The final decision to permit participation rests with the parent and is a voluntary decision. Students are expected to complete the full year in BRIDGE once commitment has been made. If an emergency arises or the teacher and parent feel it is not in the best interest of the student to continue, withdrawal procedures can be initiated.

The law limits space in the program. The maximum number of students in the BRIDGE 4th and 5th grade classroom at one time is 20 students.

Recommendations for Testing

includes standardized testing results given to the whole grade groups, parents/guardians, administrators, teachers or other related professionals. Referral forms for the program are located in the main office of each building or online at www.maumee.k12.oh.us

Qualifications for the BRIDGE Program

An intense screening process is employed to identify those children eligible to receive gifted services. The State of Ohio and House Bill 282 have set the criteria for gifted identification. Initial eligibility for BRIDGE is determined by: Ohio Administrative Code regarding the identification of gifted & talented students in the "Superior Cognitive" category. Students can meet this eligibility requirement if, within the past 24 months, the student:

- Scored a 128+ composite score on the CogAT group cognitive abilities test (Grade 2)
- Scored a 95%+ composite score on the IOWA. (Grades 5 and 7)
- Scored a 126+ composite score on the OLSAT cognitive abilities test (individual)
- Cognitive ability (composite) score of two standard deviations above the mean on a state approved test of cognitive ability.

Students demonstrating "advanced learning potential" may be placed into the BRIDGE classes, determined by Universal Design for Learning Coach and Gifted Intervention Specialists as long as the enrollment cap is not surpassed.

These students will be permitted to continue if there is no demand on the class by newly gifted identified students. *Ohio Administrative Code mandates that gifted identified students be provided service ahead of academically strong, but non-identified students.*

Does my child need to re-qualify each year?

Students do not need to re-qualify for the program on a yearly basis. Once the student is invited, he/she will continue in the program unless the teacher and parent recommend a modification.

Students who have been invited to participate who are non-identified, however exhibit “advanced learning potential,” will be permitted to continue if there is no demand on the class by newly gifted identified students.

Students who have been tested, who have not been selected for participation may be considered to be re-tested twice a year as stated by Ohio Law.

How Is My Child Evaluated in BRIDGE?

Students will learn to evaluate themselves on their effort and quality of each project completed in the BRIDGE class. The BRIDGE teachers will also evaluate students on these same projects as well as Ohio’s New Learning Standards. Projects and activities are aligned to Ohio’s New Learning Standards. Students are also evaluated on using critical, creative and logical thinking within the core subject areas.

Withdrawing:

Parents may withdraw their student from the BRIDGE classes at any time. The procedure entails meeting with the K-8 Universal Design for Learning Coach and GIS, Mrs. Danielle Pickle, in addition to completing a form stating the reason(s) for withdrawal. If a student were withdrawn, future gifted services would depend upon the class size and state enrollment cap rules.

How can I get further information about the GATE Program?

Further information regarding the GATE program is available by contacting one of the following:

Mrs. Danielle Pickle

Universal Design for Learning Coach
Gifted Teacher
Fort Miami Elementary
2501 River Road
Maumee, OH. 43537
419-893-2201
dpickle@maumeek12.org
ESC of Lake Erie West

Mrs. Michelle Shafer

Director of Curriculum
716 Askin St., Maumee, OH 43537
419-893-3200
mshafer@maumeek12.org

Brenda Gift, Ed. S.

Director of Educational Services
ESC of Lake Erie West
419-246-3120
bgift@esclakeeriewest.org

Maumee City Schools 4th and 5th Grade Gifted Services

BRIDGE What is it?

