

## **TEMPE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

### **Gifted Education**

The Tempe Union High School District provides gifted students an educational environment that encourages their individual potential through academic achievement, leadership experience, community service, and personal development.

#### **Quick Facts**

#### **Identification/Eligibility**

Being a high school district only; the referral process used for identification involves parents and staff in the following ways:

1. Notification of practice, testing dates, and process
2. Educators and staff refer in writing
3. Coordination with feeder Districts

Parents are also involved in the following ways:

- Parents assist in the online application for testing for the honors program which is used to identify gifted students.
- Booklets are distributed to the feeder schools for each high school as well as community charter and private schools. Information is posted on TUHSD website with contact phone numbers to answer questions and provide information.
- Each campus invites gifted students and parents to welcoming meetings to introduce gifted programs and facilitate transfer into the high school district.
- Other District staff are encouraged to identify current potential gifted students for screening.
- Program descriptions are available on each school's website and are accessible through TUHSD web site.
  
- All incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students are offered the opportunity to take the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) as an identification tool.
  
- Any student scoring at the 97<sup>th</sup> percentile (%ile) or higher in the area of Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, or Non-Verbal Reasoning is identified as gifted and offered gifted services through an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) that addresses intellectual, affective, developmental, and academic needs.
  
- District staff are encouraged to identify potential gifted students for screening and possible testing.
  
- Other assessment data, such as the PSAT or SAT, obtained through other means, can be used to identify a student as gifted.
  
- If a student scores at the 97<sup>th</sup>%ile or higher on another assessment from the state approved list, he or she can be identified as gifted in TUHSD.
  
- Parents are sent a letter describing the process and indicating the scores with an explanation of the process and contact information.

**TEMPE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Gifted Education**

- Students who score at or above the 97 percentile are offered placement in gifted programming, contacted directly by site coordinators via separate letter and invited with parents to informational welcome meetings prior to registration.
- Each campus has a designated gifted coordinator to support its gifted students.

**Services/Program Options**

Grouping and individualized opportunities vary depending on school site. Available options include:

- Curricular options based on areas of interest
  - Honors, AP, and Dual Credit courses may be heterogeneously or homogeneously grouped
- Homogeneous grouping at the Peggy Payne Academy and with courses for the gifted student (Honors Professional Internship, Advanced Studies)

Instructional strategies vary depending on the courses students select. These may include but are not limited to:

- Analysis
- Synthesis
- Evaluation

The Tempe Union High School District delivers services in several ways. Services are delivered by providing:

- Advanced and Accelerated Curriculum
- Facilitated Independent Learning Opportunities: Mentorship's, Internships, Advanced Studies, Advisement, Career Shadowing
- Enriched Professional Collaborations including:
  - Collaboration with feeder districts
  - Collaboration with business, corporate, and community organizations
- Coordinate College, Career Planning and Postsecondary Preparation
- Collaborate with ASU
  - Advanced Studies
  - Library Cards
  - Other activities

Differentiation occurs within individual classrooms and varies according to discipline, interest, and teacher strategies. Teachers may accommodate gifted students by process, product, content, and learning environment.

**Differences between Programs**

- Peggy Payne Academy (PPA) is only for gifted students
- Students are not ranked at PPA
- Instruction at PPA stresses problem solving, analysis, synthesis, evaluation, authentic assessment, and the use of presentations
- Honors courses may have students who score between the 75<sup>th</sup>ile to the 99<sup>th</sup>ile.
- Any student can take Advanced Placement courses

**TEMPE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Gifted Education**

**Gifted Education Contact Information and Web Sites**

**Tempe Union High School District**  
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**Corona del Sol**  
**Amanda Johnson, Gifted Coordinator**  
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**Desert Vista**  
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**Mountain Pointe**  
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**Marcos de Niza**  
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**Peggy Payne Academy/McClintock**  
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