



IRVINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent

Dr. Neely Hackett
Interim Superintendent

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June 10, 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians of Intellectually Gifted Students in Grades K to 5:

Irvington Public Schools values and appreciates all students. The ultimate goal of the district is to provide every student with a high quality education that is designed specifically to meet the needs of our diverse learners. As the parents/guardians of an intellectually gifted student, your child will continue to be exposed to instruction that is authentic, rigorous, and promotes 21st Century thinking and learning.

It is our goal to ensure that all students who are eligible for the Intellectually Gifted program have the opportunity to receive intense instruction from one of our highly trained Intellectually Gifted teachers. To this end, we will be making some logistical changes to the K to 5 Intellectually Gifted Program in the 2013-2014 school year.

Currently, the program is housed at Madison Avenue Elementary School and Mt. Vernon Avenue Elementary School. Unfortunately, due to the fact that these schools are located next to each other, many of our students who live across town are unable to participate in the Intellectually Gifted Program. To resolve this issue, we will now house the K to 5 Intellectually Gifted Program at Madison Avenue Elementary School and University Elementary School. The following feeder school matrix will be used next year:

Madison Avenue Elementary School

Students from Madison Avenue, Chancellor Avenue, Mt. Vernon Avenue, and Florence Avenue (based on address)

University Elementary School

Students from University Elementary, Grove Street, Berekeley Terrace, Thurgood Marshall, and Florence Avenue (based on address)

We anticipate that between the two schools, our district will now serve over 200 K to 5 intellectually gifted students in the 2013-2014 school year. Currently, we serve approximately 90 students. Ms. Susskind, who is the seasoned intellectually gifted teacher at Mt. Vernon Avenue School will be assigned to University Elementary next year. Ms. Simo will continue her assignment at Madison Avenue Elementary School.

Students whose addresses are zoned for a school that is assigned to the University Elementary Intellectually Gifted program will be transferred to University Elementary on June 20, 2013, unless the parents/guardians inform the principal that they prefer their child attend the home (zoned) school. I regret any inconvenience that may be caused to you or your child as we transition to a structure that will increase our enrollment of intellectually gifted students.

I hope that you will see the benefit of the logistical change to the Intellectually Gifted Program that is designed to increase our enrollment in this prestigious program. Over the summer, we plan to work on units of study that focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). We want to expose our students to academic rigor while teaching them the joy of learning through a thematic approach.

I am extremely excited about the endless possibilities that await our intellectually gifted students in the 2013-2014 school year. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's principal.

Sincerely,

Dr. Neely Hackett
Interim Superintendent