

IRVINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent

Dr. Neely Hackett
Interim Superintendent

One University Place Irvington, New Jersey 07111
(973) 399-6800 x 2110 (973) 372-3724 fax

June 10, 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians of Intellectually Gifted Students in Grades 6 to 8:

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 6 to 8 Intellectually Gifted Program in the 2013-2014 school year. Currently, our middle school program is housed at Union Avenue Middle School. Unfortunately, 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 6 to 8 Intellectually Gifted Program at Union Avenue Middle and University Middle Schools.

We anticipate that between the two schools, our district will serve over 175 intellectually gifted students in grades 6 – 8 in the 2013-2014 school year. Currently, we serve approximately 60 students. Ms. Jasovsky, who is the seasoned Intellectually Gifted teacher at Union Avenue Middle School will be training the new Intellectually Gifted teacher assigned to University Middle School so that we can have a high quality program at both sites.

Current intellectually gifted students who are in the 6th grade and their addresses are zoned for University Middle School will be transferred to University Middle School on June 20, 2013. Current 7th grade intellectually gifted students whose addresses are zoned for University Middle School will be allowed to complete their middle school program at Union Avenue Middle School. I regret any inconvenience that this may cause to you and 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