September 2023 GT Report

It’s so great to be back at school! It’s been a short and busy month for G/T services!

There are currently 42 students on the G/T caseload–18 students in Primary Talent Pool, 23 with identifications, and 1 in the process of identifying. I spent a lot of time this month analyzing spring student data to create a list of students for the watch list–I’m excited to see the caseload numbers grow!

I spent time with students this month, particularly 9th graders making the transition to high school. Many of them were writing their first Social Studies essay for Mr. Elrod and I spent some time providing feedback on their rough drafts. I also spent a lot of time with fifth graders during math instruction, and we are all excited to see the Eureka Math Squared Program begin implementation. I am also teaching an enrichment class during the 21st Century Program’s first session, so I spent a lot of time planning for Trivia Tuesday. Ms. Shroyer and I are working on a collaboration between my trivia group and the high school academic team, in hopes that we can recruit some members for future teams.

Meetings this month were all over the place. I had an absolutely great time on Opening Day–Mrs. Welscher and I bonded over our mutual birthday and have been checking in regularly as each other’s “love partners” (and GES neighbors)! I am delighted to help our students grow to showcase Tiger principles and live out the Mission and Vision of the district. Mrs. Sara Teegarden and I met during the first full week to discuss upcoming MAP testing, student use in IXL, and student placement in G/T services. Talent development is going to be a big part of my role at the elementary school, as many of our watchlist students come from Grandview. I am looking forward to working under the auspices of Ms. Wittrock, as G/T is now part of Special Populations. She was able to attend a parent meeting we held and shared her priorities for G/T students. On the 25th, I attended the Northern Kentucky Association for Gifted Education Professional Learning Network. Our guest speaker was from Kentucky Odyssey of the Mind, and I walked away with some new activities for students to showcase their creativity. On the 23rd, I attended the Portrait of a Graduate meeting at Grandview to discuss a possible exit activity for 5th graders. Although my large caseload and teaching responsibilities will take precedence, I am excited to see this project develop.

For the first time in my career, I have all of my Professional Development completed in August! I attended the Eureka Math training on the 4th at Grandview, PLCs training on the 9th and SOS training on the 15th, both at BMHS, and Bellevue Classroom training hosted by the district on the 8th. Individually, I participated in the Kentucky Association for Gifted Education State Update on the 26th, learning about the new GSSP documents and opportunities for G/T students all across the state. Even though I feel very supported here in Bellevue, it’s nice to have such a large group of resources available throughout Kentucky. I spent a lot of time last year making professional connections and everyone is so knowledgeable and helpful.

Looking ahead, I cannot wait to launch our Primary Talent Pool groups and get into classrooms more. Tuesday Trivia with 21st Century is looking more fun every day, and I can’t wait to see the students really get into it. Mr. Hicks has asked Mr. Skaggs and me to take a group of students to the KHSAA Hype conference on September 8th, and we are in the process of planning that. I am also scheduled to attend a webinar on Governor’s School for the Arts in the hopes of guiding a few students through the application process. Lots to look forward to from the G/T program!

Gifted and Talented Identification Breakdowns

General Intellect:

10

Specific Academic Aptitude, Math:

6

Specific Academic Aptitude, Language Arts:

6

Specific Academic Aptitude, Science

2

Specific Academic Aptitude, Social Studies

2

Leadership

8

Creative/Divergent Thinking Ability

3

Visual Art

3

Dance

1

Primary Talent Pool

18