



9/8/2023

Dear Hamilton Families,

This letter is to inform you that your child will soon be given an assessment to help us determine the best educational programming for them. A description of the assessment is included with this letter. This tool is one of the many measures that can be used as a part of a larger body of evidence to identify students who may need accommodations for their learning within Gifted & Talented education.

How your student can prepare for test taking—and what you can do to help:

- Make sure your student is in school and on time on test days.
- Make sure your student gets a good night's sleep and eats a healthy breakfast before each day of testing - come early to school and eat breakfast for free!
- Remind your student that these tests are only **one** part of the school day. Emphasize that you have confidence in their ability to do the best job possible.
- Remind your student to listen carefully to the directions and to each question, and to ask the teacher for help if they do not understand the directions.

This assessment will be administered at Hamilton on:

In Mr. Ponx's ELA Class: Tuesday, 9/19, throughout the day

In Ms. Rideout's ELA Class: Wednesday, 9/20, throughout the day

In Ms. Ariza's & Ms. Brown's Class: Thursday, 9/21

Make-Ups: 9/26 & 9/27 (pulled in small groups throughout the day)

Hamilton will receive test scores within a month of testing. These scores will indicate how your student performed on the test compared with students across the nation in the same grade and/or age group. You will be notified of your child's performance. If you have any questions concerning this assessment, please contact me.

If your child has an accommodation that excuses them from testing, they will be excused. If you would like to opt out of testing, please email me directly at chelsea_chappell-cox@dpsk12.net. If your child is already identified as GT, they may choose to take this screener to become eligible for HGT identification and Magnet Eligibility. To opt-in as an already identified GT student please email me directly. If your child is already identified as HGT or ME, they will not participate in this screener.

In support,

Chelsea Chappell-Cox

Preferred Pronouns: She / Her / Hers

GIFTED & TALENTED ITINERANT

Hamilton Middle School + Stephen Knight Center for Early Education +

Pascual LeDoux Academy + Escalante-Biggs Academy + Sandra Todd-Williams Academy

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Students First Integrity Equity Collaboration Accountability Fun





A Parent's Guide to Assessments

Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test® (NNAT3)

In compliance with the Exceptional Children's Educational Act (ECEA), the Gifted and Talented (GT) Department implements a universal screening each fall semester to aid in the identification and programming of students in need of gifted education services. All DPS students in grades kindergarten, 2nd, and 6th are automatically screened using the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test® (NNAT3).



WHAT IS THIS ASSESSMENT?

The NNAT3 is a brief, nonverbal measure of general intellectual ability that yields a norm-based score. The NNAT3 consists of geometric shapes with pictorial directions and minimal verbal instructions. This test is intended to screen a wide variety of students including those with limited educational experiences, those who come from diverse cultural, socioeconomic, or linguistic backgrounds, and those who have language disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, or are deaf or hard of hearing.

Testing is in an online format, and takes approximately 30 minutes to administer. The NNAT3 consists of 48 multiple choice questions in pictorial form. The test is self-paced, but the students are given 30 minutes in which to complete the test. Students can check their answers before completing the test.



WHEN IS MY CHILD BEING TESTED?

NNAT3 universal screening occurs in the fall semester for *ALL* students in Kindergarten, 2nd and 6th grades. Some NNAT testing may occur in the spring for students who were not enrolled in DPS during the fall assessment window.

Families will receive an "Intent to Test" letter prior to the testing date with the dates scheduled at their student's school. NNAT testing will occur at the child's school (if currently enrolled in DPS) or at a site determined by the Gifted and Talented Office (if homeschooled, out-of district, or private school). Please refer to <http://gt.dpsk12.org> for more information.



WHAT SCORE(S) WILL MY CHILD RECEIVE?

The score for the NNAT3 is reported in a national percentile ranking which compares your student's results to those of a group of students of the same age chosen to be representative of the U.S. population. Percentile rank tells you what percentage of students scored the same or below your student. For example, if a student scores at the 90th percentile, that means that they scored the same or better than 90% of the students of the same age. Percentile ranks range from 1 to 99, and a score at the 50th percentile is average for that student's age.



HOW WILL THESE SCORES BE USED?

The purpose of the NNAT is to provide one data point towards an overall body of evidence towards gifted identification, programming, and/or placement at a highly gifted magnet site. Please note: One test score alone may not identify a student as gifted and talented.

For more information on gifted and talented identification, the universal screening process or levels of gifted service offered in Denver Public Schools, please contact the Gifted and Talented teacher at your student's school or visit the Gifted and Talented Department website: <http://gt.dpsk12.org>



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We encourage you to be involved in your child's education. Please reach out to your child's school to learn more about assessment and programming. Reach out to your schools Gifted and Talented Teacher or contact the Gifted and Talented Department at <http://gt.dpsk12.org> or call 720-423-2056.

More Information: Assessments

Visit:

- <http://assessments.dpsk12.org>

If you have questions or concerns about assessments, please contact your child's school directly or call Family Constituency Services at (720) 423-3054.