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Dear Parents and Guardians-

The Cherry Hill Public School District provides programs to maximize the instructional growth of all children. A talented and gifted program (TAG) serves students who have been identified by teachers, parents, and/or testing as academically gifted. This program consists of:

- Classroom Instruction (Grades Kindergarten to Five)—Elementary teachers have access to instructional resources that contain adaptations and/or extensions intended to meet the needs of gifted children as part of the standard curriculum (Eligibility is based on teacher observation and past academic performance.);
- Intervention and Enrichment Period (Grades First to Five)—Elementary teachers provide opportunities for academically gifted students to deepen their understanding of topics under study through self-directed research and skilled mentoring (Eligibility is based on teacher observation and past academic performance.); and
- Weekly Targeted TAG Instruction (Grades Three to Five)—Academically gifted students work throughout the year on humanities, mathematics, and science units designed to nurture creativity and problem-solving outside of the classroom, under the direction of a grade level teacher and/or content area specialist.

All students exiting second grade are screened by the close of the academic year using the NNAT3 online non-verbal intelligence test. Initial screening criteria are:

NNAT3 Scores in Stanine 9 OR
NNAT3 Scores in Stanine 7, 8 and at least one advanced behavior survey showing frequent examples of gifted behavior (Grade Two Teacher or Parent)

Once identified, all **qualifying students** will be permitted to participate in all Targeted TAG units at their grade levels. All new students will be screened upon enrollment. **Parents of qualifying students will be contacted by mail the fourth week of September during the 2017-2018 school year.** In the event of transfer within the district, students who have been previously identified will remain eligible for TAG.

Parents of students who do not meet the above criteria may request a review of student work and/or classroom assessments prior to October 1 of the academic year by the building principal. The principal may also request a NNAT3 retest based on his/her review of student work, although these scores are typically found to be stable. For additional information, contact your building principal or my office at (856) 429-5600 ext. 4311

Sincerely,

Farrah Mahan, Ed.D.
Director of Curriculum & Instruction