



**ELEMENTARY
HIGH ABILITY FAMILY
HANDBOOK
2016-2017**

HIGH ABILITY STAFF 2016-2017

Program Coordinator

Dr. John Layton
Hiatt

(765) 771-6000

Program Assistant

Mrs. Diana Cavanaugh
Hiatt

(765) 771-6000

Building Coordinators

Jeff High School
Mr. Mark Preston

(765) 772-4700

Tecumseh Junior High School
Mrs. Rachel Ballard

(765) 772-4750

Sunnyside Intermediate School
Mrs. Emily Nolan

(765) 771-6100

Edgelea Elementary School
Mrs. Karen Combs

(765) 772-4780

Edgelea High Ability Teachers

(765) 772-4780

Kindergarten - Ms. Angela Houston

Grade One - Mrs. Maribel Masoodi

Grade Two - Mrs. Holly Olney

Grade Three - Mr. Ryan Cole

Grade Four - Mrs. Amy Freeman

Introduction

Our highest responsibility, finally, unavoidably, is the stewardship of our potential---being all we can be.

Marilyn Ferguson

The Lafayette School Corporation has a commendable record in its support of high ability education. It recognizes and appreciates the special talents of all young people and is dedicated to providing appropriate environments to nurture their talents. In 1986-87, LSC began providing self-contained classes for elementary students in grades 2-4 who were achieving one to two grade levels above their peers academically. The belief was and is that these children's needs could best be met in a classroom with a specially trained teacher. Students in grade one who demonstrate potential are "clustered" with peers with a special first grade teacher. Students in grades 5-12 have been provided a variety of Excel, Challenge, and Honors course options and extra-curricular activities to enable them to develop their academic, artistic, musical, physical, and leadership talents. Beginning in 2008 high ability kindergarten students were placed in a full day program with enriched math and language arts experiences.

The continuing success of the High Ability Program can be attributed to the hard work and collaborative efforts of teachers, students, administrators, parents, school board members, and the community. Curriculum and instructional activities within High Ability classrooms are accelerated at least one year, enriched, and differentiated with research and independent study as integral parts of each grade level's program. An effort is made to integrate technology into the curriculum and authentic assessment techniques are also important program components.

Program Goals

The Goals for the Lafayette School Corporation's High Ability Program are:

- 1. High ability students will pursue challenging, differentiated curriculum that will allow them to become independent learners.**
- 2. High ability students will discover and understand their own uniqueness and will display positive self-concepts as they pursue their individual interests and needs, and develop innovative products.**
- 3. High ability students will understand divergent views and respect individual's viewpoints as they cooperatively and responsibly interact with their communities.**
- 4. High ability students will utilize higher level thinking skills and meta-cognitive processes in their pursuit of mastering advanced content.**
- 5. High ability students will display a multi-cultural awareness and appreciation of diversity within a global perspective.**

THE HIGH ABILITY PROGRAM AT EDGELEA

Edgelea Elementary School
2910 South 18th Street
Lafayette, Indiana 47909
Phone: (765)772-4780
FAX: (765) 772-4786

Edgelea Elementary is the site for the elementary K-4 High Ability Program. Kindergarten students are identified as having academic potential and are placed with a trained kindergarten teacher for an advanced and enriched kindergarten program. First grade students showing a great deal of academic potential are clustered in a first grade classroom with a trained teacher. Identified High Ability students in grades two through four participate in a self-contained classroom with other identified students and a trained teacher. High Ability students walk, ride in cars, or ride the bus to school each day.

Edgelea has approximately 550 students in kindergarten through grade four. Of the 550 students, approximately 125 are High Ability students in grades K-4. The High Ability classrooms are located in the wings of the school that house the other grade level programs. The school has a student population that reflects the diversity of the city of Lafayette.

Edgelea School believes that the involvement of parents in their children's education is vitally important. The school stresses a parent/teacher/student team approach. The school has a very active parent group known as the T.P.A. (Teacher Parent Association). The T.P.A. welcomes all parents as members and sponsors many special activities for families during the school year. High Ability parents are encouraged to become active members.

EDGELEA SCHOOL PERSONNEL:

Principal:	Mrs. Karen Combs
Secretary:	Mrs. Audrey Powell
Assistant Principal:	Mrs. Erin Phillips
Lunch Supervisor:	Mrs. Tricia Seef
School Nurse:	Mrs. Theresa Earney

HOMWORK PHILOSOPHY

Homework is an expected part of the High Ability Program. It is expected that students will do the work independently with little or no parent intervention. Each grade level in the High Ability Program has a consistent homework routine and an expectation policy in place. Practice and reinforcement at home of skills learned in school provides a beneficial connection for the High Ability student. Each student is given an assignment notebook to write down homework assignments each day. Here are some specific guidelines:

- Homework helps each child learn study skills and organization and how to become a more independent learner.
- Each teacher has a policy in place for late or missed assignments. Please check with the teacher and become familiar with his/her expectations.
- In Kindergarten, first and second grades, teachers and parents help more with organization and responsibility so students can learn to be consistent with turning in assignments.
- By third and fourth grades, the teachers expect the children to be more independent and become responsible for all of their work, for example: filling out their own assignment notebooks, completing assigned work and turning it in on time and packing their own backpacks at home and at school each day.
- The amount of time spent on homework varies by grade level, night, and the child. Here are some guidelines:

Grades K & 1 =	15-20 minutes
Grades 2 & 3 =	20-45 minutes
Grade 4 =	45 minutes

- If your child is CONSISTENTLY spending longer each evening than the teacher expects, please let the teacher know.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. ARE YOU SURE MY CHILD BELONGS IN A HIGH ABILITY PROGRAM??

Your child was carefully identified for the High Ability Program based on standardized test scores, teacher recommendations, parent recommendations, check lists, and assessments given by the High Ability Program. We feel that this program is well-suited to your child's needs. Relax and allow your child time to adjust to new surroundings. If after the first grading period you still have concerns, please express these to your child's High Ability teacher.

2. MY CHILD IS NEW TO THE PROGRAM AND MISSES HIS/HER OLD FRIENDS AND/OR SCHOOL?

Encourage your child to play with neighborhood friends, participate in scouts, athletic activities, etc. with his/her old friends while developing new friends in his/her current class.

3. YOUR CHILD SAYS, "I'M NOT THE BEST (FASTEST, SMARTEST, ETC.) ANYMORE."

Please remind your child that everyone has strengths and weaknesses and in varying degrees. We're all different and that's okay! This new learning environment provides a special situation where students with many talents and abilities are grouped together to learn, grow, and share.

4. HOW DO I HANDLE MY CHILD'S FIRST LOW SCORE OR GRADE?

Remind your child that everyone makes mistakes, and we learn a great deal from our mistakes. Grades are not a reflection of him/her personally but a method to show how well he/she is performing. Help them keep it in perspective. Remind them to ask for help if they need it.

5. MY CHILD HAD AN ASSIGNMENT LAST NIGHT THAT HE/SHE HAD NO IDEA HOW TO DO, AND IT SEEMED TOO DIFFICULT?

Homework is a direct extension of classroom instruction. Frequently, the assignment was started in class and a process for completing the assignment was taught and discussed. Ask your child to explain the process. If after a reasonable amount of time your child is still unable to complete the assignment, please send the teacher a note.

6. HOW MUCH HELP SHOULD WE GIVE ON PROJECTS AND ASSIGNMENTS?

Assignments are designed for the children. Parents may provide guidance and explanations. Organization and time management need constant reinforcement from parents.

7. HOW CAN I HELP AT SCHOOL?

We welcome your help at school! You can visit anytime. Please let the teacher and the school know you are coming so when you arrive the children are in the classroom and not in a special class, attending a special event or testing. Please make sure you sign in at the office and have a background check on file. Talk with your child's teacher about specific opportunities to help in the classroom.

8. HOW DOES MY CHILD'S CLASS AND THE REGULAR CLASSROOMS INTERACT?

All grade level children have recess and lunch together each day. We often take grade level field trips and work together on special projects.

9. WILL MY CHILD AUTOMATICALLY CONTINUE IN THE PROGRAM NEXT YEAR?

Evaluation is an on-going process. At the end of kindergarten and grade 1, additional assessments will be given to ensure your child is ready for acceleration. Provided your child has a successful year, there is no cause for concern. **High Ability students are expected to maintain a "B" average throughout the year.** Your child's teacher will contact you if she/he has specific concerns.

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

1. **The High Ability Program Office at Edgelea School**

2910 South 18th Street
Lafayette, Indiana 47909

There is a supply of books for parents of gifted children on such topics as perfectionism, parenting tips, counselling needs, etc.

Call Diana Cavanaugh for more information (765)771-6000

2. **The Indiana Association of the Gifted**

www.iag-online.org

A group of parents and educators state-wide who advocate for gifted and talented children. A newsletter entitled *Images* is produced four times each year and a state-wide conference for teachers and parents is held each March or April in Indianapolis.

3. **The National Association of Gifted Children (NAGC)**

1707 L Street, NW, Suite 550
Washington DC 20036
(202)785-4268
www.nagc.org

A national group of educators, parents, and university personnel dedicated to improving educational opportunities for the nation's gifted and talented youth. This organization sponsors a yearly national conference and two publications: *Gifted Child Quarterly* and *Parenting for Potential*.

4. **The Gifted Education Resource Institute**

Purdue University
1446 Liberal Arts and Education Building
West Lafayette, IN 47907
(765) 494-7236

GERI provides summer programs and Super Saturday programs. You can contact Dr. Marcia Gentry, the Director of GERI for additional information.

5. **Hoagies' Gifted Education Page**

www.hoagiesgifted.org

Welcome to **Hoagies' Gifted Education Page**, the all-things-gifted site, full of resources, articles, books and links to help and support parents, teachers, and gifted children alike. Pick your entrance, but explore them all!