

Dear Parents and Students,

December 2014

We would like to thank you for your interest in applying to the Challenge Program at East Middle School. We feel strongly that there is a need for a middle school program that is geared toward strong academic students. We are committed to providing your student with an accelerated, enriched, and appropriate curriculum that will meet their unique needs. We also focus on the whole child and the social and emotional needs that many gifted children have.

The teachers in the Challenge Program enjoy working with gifted kids and value the unique contributions these students can make. They are also willing to tackle the challenges that come with this exciting job. Our Challenge Program teachers also teach regular education classes. We want to be partners with parents to make our students' educational journey meaningful, and we value input from parents and students.

We feel that our application process provides a very well rounded picture of each student. We appreciate having a diverse group of students who bring different strengths and personalities to the class. The features they usually have in common are a commitment to their education, a desire to learn, a willingness to do what it takes to succeed, and good communication skills. While looking at applications we consider the following:

- Cognitive Abilities Test (measures intellect)
 - February 17, 2014 from 10 - 12:30
 - March 7, 2014 from 8:00 - 10:30
 - March 7, 2014 from 1:00 - 3:30
- Teacher recommendation
- Educator checklist
- Parent questionnaire
- Student questionnaire
- Report Card
- Achievement Scores:
 - TCAP (measures achievement)
 - STARS (measures achievement)

Please feel free to call if you have questions or comments concerning the Challenge Program at East Middle School. Applications will be accepted until the end of our school day on March 21st, 2014.

Sincerely,

Tina Sleigh, Challenge Coordinator
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