

# Immanuel Lutheran Gifted/FLIGHT Program

The gifted education program of Immanuel Lutheran, Wentzville is designed to meet the needs of academically gifted and talented students in grades 1 – 8. It aims to provide an environment that meets the needs of each gifted student through experiences that strengthen the students' higher order thinking skills, nurture their creative abilities, and assist in their social/emotional development. Through participation in our program, students will be challenged through learning experiences geared to their level in a small group of peers.

---

**Mission Statement:** The mission of the Immanuel Lutheran Gifted Program is to create an environment in which each gifted child can reach his/her full potential.

**Definition of Gifted:** The term "gifted" refers to a kind of learner having precocious development of mental capacity, learning potential and affective needs as determined by competent professional evaluation. These learning characteristics are such that their continued educational growth and stimulation is best served by a specialized academic program in addition to that which is offered in the regular classroom setting.

## **Rationale for Gifted Program Curriculum**

Gifted students are entitled to an education corresponding with their abilities and potential, as are all students. We believe it is critical for this segment of the population to be involved in a program designed to foster the unique academic talents of gifted learners. Therefore, gifted students with advanced knowledge and unusual learning capacity are offered curriculum that is specifically designed to challenge academically advanced learners and provide experiences that promote critical thinking and reasoning skills, creativity and divergent thinking, research and independent study skills, and interpersonal and affective skills. It is differentiated and matched to their unique learning characteristics which include the ability to explore areas in significant depth, the tendency to ask and grapple with difficult questions, the potential to respond creatively, the desire to use leadership abilities to make a difference in the world, and the capacity to handle content at an advanced level and pace.

## **Goals of the Gifted Program:**

- To foster student communication of information, ideas, and solutions clearly and accurately
- To encourage critical and higher level thinking skills in both cognitive and affective areas, i.e. acceptance and valuing of human differences; respect for the cultures, needs and rights of others; and recognition of the contributions of others
- To provide students with experiences that involve self direction, planning, interpreting, finding, evaluating, and using information and technology
- To provide educational learning experiences that meet the needs of gifted learners