

ALPINE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Department of Gifted Services
Important Testing Information on Placement
For the ACAD (Advanced Learners) Program
For the 2012-2013 School Year

Dear Alpine School District Parents/Guardians:

To meet the diverse needs of academically advanced students, Alpine School District has established an English/History cohort class at an advanced level for seventh and eighth graders. These Academic Studies Programs (ACADs) are located at all junior high schools across the District.

The purpose of this letter is to inform all parents/guardians of sixth graders about the opportunity to test for placement consideration in an ACAD program. Identified students will be offered placement and be invited to meet with the teacher(s) to learn more about their specific program(s) later in the school year. The identified students and their parents/guardians make the final decision to accept or decline placement after the meeting with the teacher(s) in the program.

POSSIBLE INDICATORS TO CONSIDER PRIOR TO HAVING A STUDENT TESTED:

- The student's Utah State Core (CRT) test scores are a 4 in Language Arts, Math, and Science.
- The student is reading at two or more grade levels above current grade.
- The current classroom teacher has suggested during a Parent/Teacher Conference that the student could benefit from a more complex or in-depth curriculum as offered in a gifted program.
- The student is self-motivated and can plan, make decisions, and work independently.
- The student remains committed to a task until its completion.
- The student learns quickly and can recall information effortlessly.
- The student exhibits satisfactory to outstanding citizenship in both attitude and behavior.

To help in the prescreening process, here is some **ADDITIONAL, SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION TO CONSIDER:**

- The Academic Studies candidates must be identified for the program through a series of evaluations. The top thirty-four students at each junior high are generally offered placement, and an additional four to six alternates being placed in a "candidate/alternate pool"
- The Academic Studies class is intended to be a two-year commitment for seventh and eighth grades.
- Academic Studies students will have assignments and homework that are greater in depth and complexity.

If you feel that your child could benefit from an ACAD placement and you would like to begin the consideration process, please go online to: www.alpineschools.org, go to Departments, then to Educational Services, then to Gifted Services and then Online Registration. You must have your child's Alpine School District (ASD) student number (example - 9843712) before entering the information. If a student is new to the district or has never been assigned a number, please use the number – 5555555. All other fields on the application must be filled in to submit the form. There will be a **\$20.00 nonrefundable fee** charged for registration. (Proof of free or reduced lunch will alter the registration cost for students. Parents must bring the free or reduced lunch status letter to register and pay the altered fee in person at the PDC building at the district at 575 N 100 E, American Fork.)

THE ONLINE APPLICATION WINDOW WILL BE FROM SEPTEMBER 6 - OCTOBER 28.

Testing will be:

November 5 at Mt. Ridge Jr., 5525 W 10400 N, Highland, UT

November 12 at Canyon View Jr., 655 E 950 N, Orem, UT

November 19 at Vista Heights Middle School, 484 W Pony Express Pkwy, Saratoga Springs, UT

The testing sessions will be on these SATURDAYS at 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please arrive early to get students settled for the testing. Please bring their ASD student number to testing.

CLASSES FOR THE ACAD PROGRAM WILL BE FILLED BY THE END OF JANUARY FOR THE 2012-13 SCHOOL YEAR. No extra testing will be available unless the classes do not get filled with the first testing. Testing students later in the year complicates the placement process for all parties involved, including students, parents, gifted coordinators, teachers, counselors, administrators, etc. PLEASE ALLOW YOUR CHILD TO TEST AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE IN THE YEAR IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.
