

MSD Warren Township

Excel Criteria and Selection Process For Grades 2 – 9

Mission Statement: *The EXCEL Program is designed to meet the unique academic and affective needs of highly talented students through a cooperative, enriched, and accelerated academic program where each person feels significant and appreciated.*

Students are identified and placed in a Talent Pool based on specific criteria.

Grade 2

Excel Identification

- NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) score 85% or higher in Reading or Math
- CogAT Ability Test
- Behavioral Checklist – *Characteristics of Very Bright Exceptional Youngsters Grades 1-2*
- Teacher Recommendation
- Parent Recommendation

Grades 3 - 6

Excel Identification

- NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) score 85% or higher in Language Arts, Reading or Math
- Teacher Recommendation
- Parent Recommendation

Grades 7 – 9

Excel Identification

- NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) score 85% or higher in Language Arts, Reading or Math
- Teacher Recommendation
- Parent Recommendation

Note: A screening committee selects students from the ranked Talent Pool for entrance into the EXCEL Program based on rank order and space availability. Current 6th and 8th grade students are not guaranteed placement in 7th and 9th grade. All other students continue in the program, unless an exit conference occurs.

MSD Warren Township EXCEL Program Expectations

Grades 2 - 6

Brookview, Lakeside and Lowell Elementary Schools and each Intermediate Academy offer full-time classes for high-ability students. Students are selected for the EXCEL classes based upon state and district criteria which may include achievement test scores, student ability, parent recommendation, and teacher recommendation.

Expectations of the EXCEL Program

- Students are challenged to grow in the academic and affective areas.
- Open communication provides parents with an understanding of their child's progress in the program. Parents are encouraged to be participants in the learning process.
- Curriculum is appropriately **accelerated** and **personalized** to meet the learning needs of the academically talented student.
- A safe and nurturing environment is provided for every student.

Expectations of the Students and Parents

- *The curriculum in EXCEL is differentiated and faster-paced. Basic skills are mastered and deeper learning is emphasized. Students may work above grade level.*
- EXCEL students are expected to complete challenging short and long-term projects both at home and at school.
- Homework is an expectation of EXCEL students.
- Parental support in and out of school is necessary for the successful educational development of the EXCEL student.
- Peer interactions and activities are age appropriate.
- A one-year commitment is expected.

MSD Warren Township EXCEL Program Expectations

Grades 7 – 9

Creston Middle School, Raymond Park Middle School, Stonybrook Middle School, and Warren Central High School offer classes for high-ability students. Students are selected for the EXCEL classes based upon state and district criteria which may include achievement test scores, student ability, parent recommendation, and teacher recommendation.

Expectations of the EXCEL Program

- Students are challenged to grow in the academic and affective areas.
- Open communication provides parents with an understanding of their child's progress in the program. Parents are encouraged to be participants in the learning process.
- Curriculum is appropriately accelerated and differentiated to meet the learning needs of the academically talented student.
- A safe and nurturing environment is provided for every student.

Expectations of the Students and Parents

- The curriculum in EXCEL is differentiated and faster-paced. Basic skills are mastered. Students may work above grade level.
- EXCEL students are expected to complete challenging short and long-term projects both at home and at school.
- Extensive homework is an expectation of EXCEL students.
- Achievement below the "B" level will result in academic probation and may result in student reassignment.
- Parental support in and out of school is necessary for the successful educational development of the EXCEL student.
- Peer interactions and activities are age appropriate.
- A one-year commitment is expected.