

EXCEL

Curriculum:

The MSD Warren Township EXCEL program ensures that all EXCEL students master the required curriculum as determined by the state of Indiana and MSD Warren Township. An emphasis on interdisciplinary curriculum is the focus of the full-time classrooms. A pyramid of skills forms the basis for curriculum objectives.

At the base of the pyramid are the basic skills needed by every student. These skills are accelerated for EXCEL students.

The midsection of the pyramid focuses on “basic skills for gifted students” which include an emphasis on higher order thinking skills, critical and creative reasoning, and problem- based learning.

At the top of the pyramid are enrichment objectives which are facilitated through differentiated curriculum opportunities.



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MSD Warren

**Office of Innovation
and Improvement**

EXCEL

Program



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.



Excel Program

Excel Criteria and Selection Process



For Grades 2 – 9

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

Excel Identification

Grade 2

- 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

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

Grades 7 – 9

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

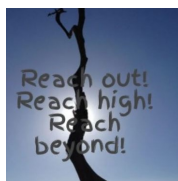
Note: A screening committee selects students from the ranked Talent Pool for entrance into the EXCEL Program based on rank order and space availability. Current 6th and 8th grade students are not guaranteed placement in 7th and 9th grade. All other students continue in the program, unless an exit conference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

Levels of Instruction

Elementary & Intermediate Academy Services

The Elementary and Intermediate Academy Excel Program is a magnet program consisting of self-contained classrooms at three elementary schools and at each Intermediate Academy in grades 2 through 6. Transportation is provided from feeder schools via a shuttle system.

Middle School Services



EXCEL classes are offered at all middle schools to students in grades 7-8 in the following four content areas: English, math, science, and social studies. Students are selected for individual class offerings. This allows for more students to participate in the program and develop personal academic strengths.

Students in grades 7 and 8 may be invited to participate in the Midwest Academic Talent Search sponsored by Northwestern University.

High School Services

EXCEL classes are offered to qualifying students in grade 9 & 10 in English, math, science, and social studies. Advanced Placement classes and dual credit classes in English, math, science, social studies, fine arts, and world languages are available for students who meet course-specific prerequisites in grades 11 & 12 .

Excel Program Expectation

Elementary

Brookview - Lakeside - Lowell

Intermediate and Middle School

Creston - Raymond Park - Stonybrook

Warren Central High School

Each of the above schools 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 effective areas.
- ◇ Open communication provides parents with an understanding of their child's progress in the program. Parents are encouraged to be a participant in the learning process.
- ◇ Curriculum is appropriately accelerated and differentiated to meet the learning needs of the academically talented 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.