



Pinewood Community School FULL-DAY GIFTED AND TALENTED CLASSROOMS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. Which grade levels offer full-day GT classrooms?** Grades 3, 4 and 5 have full-day GT classrooms.
- 2. Is there a cost to enroll in the full-day GT program at Pinewood?** No, Pinewood is part of District 196, the Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools.
- 3. What are the eligibility requirements for the full-day GT classrooms?** Eligibility is based on student scores on standardized tests of cognition and achievement. Generally, scores above the 95th percentile in reading, math and cognition are considered for placement. Both group and individual cognition and achievement tests are considered. Teacher and parent observation inventories are also considered. Students who do not have standardized achievement and cognition data from their current school must present intelligence/achievement testing data from a licensed psychologist, along with a written recommendation from the student's current classroom teacher.
- 4. How are eligible students selected for the full-day classrooms?** Eligible students are selected in the following order until all available spaces are filled in each grade level: 1) Students who live in the Pinewood attendance area are considered first; 2) All other District 196 students are considered next, and 3) Students who live outside of District 196 are considered last.
- 5. Once enrolled in the full-day GT program, is continued enrollment guaranteed?** Yes, once a student is selected for the full-day GT program, he/she may remain in the program in subsequent years without reapplying.
- 6. If a student applies as a third grader and is not selected for a GT classroom, are they able to apply in fourth and/or fifth grade?** Yes, but a new application must be submitted each school year.
- 7. If my child is identified GT but not selected for a full-day classroom, will he/she still receive GT instruction?** Yes. All District 196 elementary schools, including Pinewood, offer gifted programming through a levels-of-service model.
- 8. If my child is identified GT and also qualifies for special education services, are they eligible for the full-day GT classroom?** Yes. Students who are "twice exceptional" (identified for gifted and special education services) are welcome to apply for the full-day GT program. If selected, they would receive special education services at Pinewood according to their individual Education Plan (IEP).
- 9. How is instruction in the full-day classrooms different from a cluster classroom?** Because all students in the full-day classrooms are identified GT students, the pace of instruction is quicker and the complexity of questioning is more advanced. There is also more emphasis on writing and a focus on the use of technology in instruction and with assignments. Students in full-day GT classrooms regularly participate in cooperative and project-based learning opportunities.
- 10. What is the relationship between the full-day GT classrooms and the other grade-level classrooms?** GT students participate in physical education, art, music and media classes, and eat lunch with their grade-level peers. They also participate together in grade-level and school events such as field trips and special programs.
- 11. Are students in the full-day GT classrooms assigned extra homework?** The emphasis is not on more work, but rather assignments that are more rigorous and geared to the students' needs and interests. Students are involved in several long-term projects during the school year. They receive guidance in developing self-directed learning skills such as time management and planning for completion of long-term projects.
- 12. Are class sizes different at Pinewood?** No, the number of students per class is comparable to other District 196 schools for grades 3-5, including the full-day GT classrooms.
- 13. Is transportation provided?** Only students living within the Pinewood attendance area and more than one mile from school are eligible to receive bus transportation. All families living outside the Pinewood attendance area are responsible for transporting their child to and from school.

14. **Is there before- and after-school child care available at Pinewood?** Yes. The School-Age Care (SAC) program is available at all District 196 elementary schools and is operated by the local YMCA. For more information about the SAC program, call 651-683-8556.
15. **Is there a waiting list for the full-day GT classrooms?** Yes. Although openings seldom occur after the start of the school year, applications for the full-day GT classrooms are kept on file and reevaluated if a spot becomes available.
16. **Are siblings given preference to attend the full-day GT program?** No. Siblings may attend Pinewood through open enrollment or intra-district transfer, if/when space is available in their grade level.
17. **Where do Pinewood students attend middle school?** There are six middle schools in District 196. Most Pinewood students live in the Dakota Hills Middle School attendance area and some live in the Rosemount Middle School attendance area.
18. **Where can I get an application?** Call Pinewood Community School at 651-683-6980
19. **Where can I get more information or request a tour of Pinewood?**

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