Gifted Education

Pine-Richland School District
Gifted Education Team

• 4 Core Team Members Started July 2017
  – Mr. Noel Hustwit (K-12: Chapter 16 Lead)
  – Dr. Kristen Silbaugh (K-12 Lead Program/Curriculum)
  – Dr. Michael Pasquinelli (7-12 Curriculum Support)
  – Mrs. Danielle Czegan (Department Chair)

• School Psychologists
  – Dr. Maura Paczan, Lead School Psychologist (K-12)
  – Dr. Melissa Ramirez, School Psychologist (7-12)
  – Dr. Bryson Bresnahan, School Psychologist (K-6)
Overview of Topics

- Understand the Basis of Gifted Education
- Connect Accelerated and Gifted Education services to the MTSS model
- Use the MTSS Model to Determine Supports for Accelerated and Gifted Learners
- PRSD Gifted Education Program Design
  - (K-3, 4-6, 7-8, & 9-12)
Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Key Concepts

MTSS is...

☐ a general education initiative
☐ a data-driven resource
☐ a tool for early recognition of student needs and
  a guide for identifying appropriate interventions
Within the general education classroom, use of pre-assessments; differentiated instruction which may include: compacted (further) curriculum units, independent learning contracts, cluster grouping, flexible grouping, learning centers, real world experiences, assignments differentiated by content, process, or product that replace general classroom assignments.

Tier 2

Individualized change of pace, content, or task that may be inside or outside the classroom; advanced skill group instruction; advanced course material typically one year above grade level; in addition to T1 interventions.

Tier 3

Acceleration in one or more class or content areas; in addition to T1 & T2 interventions.

Chapter 16:
Special Education for Gifted Learners
What Triggers MTSS?

- Classroom Observation
- Data Collection
  - Prior Evaluation for Gifted?
  - Enrichment Services Offered?
  - Universal Screener Data?
- Referral to MTSS Team
  - Team Discussion
  - Reflection on Data
  - Decision Tree Alignment
  - Responsive Design to Programming/Instruction
What Guides The MTSS Decision Process?

- Decision Trees Developed
  - Guides Discussion
  - Data-Driven Road Map
  - Guides Recommendations for Enrichment or Acceleration

- Assessments Included
  - Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT 7)
  - STAR 360 Performance
  - Teacher Attributes
The Relationship Between MTSS and Accelerated and Gifted Learners

**Tier 1**
Within the general education classroom, use of pre-assessments, differentiated instruction which may include: compacted (further) curriculum units, independent learning contracts, cluster grouping, flexible grouping, learning centers, real world experiences, assignments differentiated by content, process, or product that replace general classroom assignments.

**Tier 2**
Individualized change of pace, content, or task that may be inside or outside the classroom; advanced skill group instruction; advanced course material typically one year above grade level in addition to T1 Interventions.

**Tier 3**
Acceleration in one or more classes or content areas in addition to T1 & T2 interventions.

Next Steps
Gifted Identification Process

- Grade 2 & 5 Universal Screening
- Proactive “Child Find” as Team
- Screening Matrix & Data
  - Building Level Screening Profile Initially
  - District Level Psychologist Involvement
  - Gifted Written Referral Completed
  - Results Determine Qualification for Services (Strengths-Based Goals)
Model Foundation: Chapter 16

- Students are identified as mentally gifted through multiple measures.
- Academic strengths are targeted through specially designed instruction and documented in GIEPs.
- GIEP goals are aligned to standards and are curriculum-based.
K-3 Services

Tier 1 Support (in the classroom)
- Cluster grouping based on reading levels
- Differentiated math opportunities (Marcy Cook, First in Math)
- Math Pathways for third grade

Gifted Pull Out Time
- Kindergarten once weekly, 45 minute block
- Grades 1-3, once weekly, 90 minute block

Exploration Topics
- Geography, World Cultures, STEM, Logic and Problem Solving, SNAP/SCRATCH programming
- Developing Strategies for Logic and Problem Solving

Enrichment Competitions
- Math Kangaroo International Competition
- Doodle for Google
4-6 Services

Tier 1 Support
- Math Pathways
- ELA/Writing Co-Teaching (Pilot)

Gifted Pull Out Time (RAM Time)
- 35-Minutes/Daily
- PBL/Real-World Application

Exploration Topics: Open GATE (Explore)
- 30-60-Minutes/weekly
- Like-Minded Peers, Student Interests

Exploration Topics: Dream Lab
- 45-Minutes/Bi-Weekly
- Computer Science (Raspberry Pi)

Enrichment Competitions (examples):
- Math Kangaroo International Competition
- STEM Design Challenge
- Math 24 Challenge
- Science & History Bowl
- Wild Investigations
7-8 Services

Tier 1 Support
- Clustering in Academic Courses
- Differentiated Writing Prompts
- Pre-assessments to Drive Differentiation

Gifted Pull Out Time (Acad. Support)
- Weekly Pull-Out Classes - 45 minutes
- Preparation for Enrichment Activities or Events
- Gifted Resource Room for Academic or Social Support

Career Exploration
- Career-Focused Enrichment & Exploration
- Naviance & Meetings with Counselors

Enrichment/Competitions
- Team/Individual Long Term Commitment
  - Mock Trial
  - TSA-TEAMS
  - Science & Engineering Fair
  - Stock Market Game
  - Odyssey of the Mind
  - National History Day
7-8 Services

Workshops and Seminars (examples):
- Engineering PSU Workshop
- Writing Workshop
- SciTech Day
- Back in Time History Workshop
- NACLO Computational Linguistics WS
- Arts and Robotics Workshop
- Robot C Programming Workshop

Academic Competitions (examples):
- History Bowl
- Wordsmith Vocabulary Challenge
- Calcusolve Competition
- American Mathematics Competition
- STEM K’Nex Challenge
- Battle of the Brains Quiz Bowl
9-12 Services

Tier 1 Support
- Enrichment/Acceleration through Differentiation
- Research Based Grouping Practices
- Depth of Knowledge and/or Rigor & Relevance
- Tiered Assignments

Gifted Pull Out Time
- Student/Gifted Teacher Initiated
- Provision of Gifted Resource Room

College and Career Transition
- Apprenticeships
- Student Initiated Internships
- Summer Academies
- Governor’s School(s)
9-12 Services

Enrichment/Competitions

Long Term Commitments (examples):
- Mock Trial
- Science/Computer Fairs
- Governor’s School(s)

Workshops and Seminars (examples):
- Genetic Update
- Intro to Governor’s School

Academic Competitions (examples):
- High Q
- College and Science Bowls
Gifted Education Plan

- Current Plan being Revised
- Goals:
  - Educate Community on Gifted MTSS
  - Process for Identification
- Key Documents:
  - Gifted Written Report (GWR)
  - Gifted Individualized Education Plan (GIEP)
  - Notice of Recommended Assignment (NORA)
  - Procedural Safeguards
Staff Training Podcasts

- **Podcast #1**: Understanding the MTSS Process
- **Podcast #2**: Relationship Between MTSS and the Accelerated-Gifted Learner
- **Podcast #3**: Tiered Interventions for Accelerated-Gifted Learners
- **Podcast #4**: Identification of Gifted Learners
Thank You!!