THE TALENTED & GIFTED PROGRAM (TAG)
COGBURN WOODS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL –
TAG PROGRAM/Fulton County School System’s Talented and Gifted Program:

The Talented and Gifted program in the Fulton County School System provides enriching experiences for the intellectually advanced and exceptionally creative creative student. Gifted services are available in all Fulton County Schools for students from the elementary level through grade 12. The program meets all requirements of the Georgia Department of Education and provides a variety of high-quality opportunities for students. Specially-trained educators guide the gifted student in ways that maximize the child’s unique learning characteristics, interests, personal needs, and capabilities.
Georgia Eligibility Criteria for TAG

State Board Rule 160-4-2.38 states: “The Georgia State Board of Education defines a gifted student as one who demonstrates a high degree of intellectual and/or creative ability(ies), exhibits an exceptionally high degree of motivation, and/or excels in specific academic fields, and who needs special instruction and/or special services to achieve at levels commensurate with his or her abilities.”
Referral and Testing Procedures at the Elementary Level

I. Automatic Screening – At the beginning of the school year, TAG teachers review previous year’s test scores.
   • Standardized Tests – Students (4-5) must have a minimum of a 90th percentile in at least one of the following areas: Total Reading, Total Math, or Complete Battery.
   • Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) – Scores are set by the TAG department each year. **For this year Math is + 880, Reading+868.**
   • K-1 students must be identified using Acceleration test.

II. Classroom Screening – Local schools select a two week period in January to screen all students in their schools.
   • Classroom teachers use the *Characteristics Instrument for Screening Students (CISS)* to identify students with superior abilities in five of more of the following areas: motivation, interests, communication skills, problem-solving abilities, memory, inquiry, insight, reasoning, creativity, and humor.

III. Supporting Data - Students meeting either the Automatic Screening OR Classroom Screening criteria AND have supporting data gathered from test history, products and/or advanced content levels are referred for gifted testing.

Once referred for testing:
   • Parent receives *Parent Notification for Testing Consent Form*
   • Student tests for the gifted program (results may take several weeks to be received)
   • Parent receives test results
   • It state eligibility is determined, and parents consent to placement, students are placed into the TAG program.
Referral and Screening -
All students are screened twice a year for the TAG program.

- **Automatic Screening**
  **August:** At the beginning of the school year TAG teachers review previous year CRCT Reading & Math Scores grades 4-5
  Qualifying scores for Fall 2012:
  Reading  868+  Math 880+
  PLUS one piece of supporting information:
  • 90% standardized test
  • Above grade level as determined by system
  • A former mental ability score at the 96+% 
  Grades 1 – 3 ACC test over 80%

- **Classroom Screening (CISS)**
  **January**
  • 5 of 10 criteria on CISS motivation, interests, communication skills, problem-solving ability, memory, inquiry, insight, reasoning, creativity, & humor.

  PLUS one piece of supporting:
  • 85/90 combo on ITBS
  • CRCT scores
  • Above grade level as determined by system
  • A former mental ability score at the 96+%
Frequently Asked Questions at the Local (Elementary) Level:

Can parents refer their children for TAG testing?
No. The Fulton County School System has a set process for screening all students twice a year for eligibility for gifted services. Trained professionals review test scores, screen students for superior abilities in areas on the Characteristics Instrument for Screening Students and review classroom placement levels in language arts and math to help determine referrals for TAG testing.

My child makes straight A’s and is above grade level, why isn’t he/she being considered for TAG?
Students must qualify for eligibility using the Multiple Criteria Process.

Is the TAG program ever full?
No

What happens in General Education on TAG day?
Regular education classes do carry on when students are in TAG. TAG students do attend their math class and will have to their regular education homework.
My child was in a TAG program in another school. Will he/she automatically be placed into the TAG program at this school?

If a student was in a TAG program in another Georgia public school, he/she will automatically be placed into the TAG program, as soon as we receive documentation from the child’s former Georgia school showing evidence of gifted placement/services. **It is the parents’ responsibility to obtain this documentation and forward it to our Gifted Department.** If a student was in a gifted program outside the state of Georgia, it is the parents’ responsibility to obtain all gifted information from the previous school attended. Most important to obtain is documentation of mental ability testing (“IQ” scores), creativity testing, and any other testing completed to determine eligibility for gifted services. This information will help determine if the student is automatically eligible for services, eligible for testing, or ineligible for services.
Why does it appear that some students are tested more frequently than others?
I’ve heard that test scores are valid for a period of two years.

Mental ability (“IQ”) and Creativity scores are considered valid for a period of two years. However, achievement test scores can change from year to year depending on the whether an achievement test is scheduled to be administered at your child’s grade level, and, motivation information can change if your child’s reading and math levels change and need to be updated.

Every child has a different test history which the TAG teachers carefully observe.
Qualifying for TAG:

Procedure One –
Students must qualify in three of the four categories:
* Mental Ability – 96th or higher percentile composite OR appropriate component score on a nationally normed mental ability test.
* Achievement – 90th or higher percentile Total Reading, Total Math, or Complete Battery/Composite on a nationally normed achievement test.
* Creativity – 90th or higher percentile composite score on a standardized test of creative thinking (Torrence Test of Creative Thinking “TTCT”)
* Motivation – above level continuous achievement level as determined by the system; or 90%+ on the MRS Ratings Scale

Procedure Two –
* Students must have a qualifying score in the mental ability AND achievement categories:
  * Mental Ability –
    K-2 – 99th percentile composite score on a standardized mental ability test.
    Grades 3-5 – 96th percentile composite score on a standardized mental ability test.
  * Achievement –
    90th or higher percentile in Total Reading, Total Math, or Complete Battery/Composite on a nationally normed achievement test.
Information shall be gathered in each of the four categories (Mental Ability, Achievement, Creativity, and Motivation).

At least one of the criteria must be met be a score on a nationally normed test.

Any data used to establish eligibility in one category should not be used to establish eligibility in another category.

Any piece of information used to establish eligibility shall be current within two years.

The Talented and Gifted Program will only administer standardized mental ability and creativity tests once every two years.

Data gathered and analyzed by a source outside the school system may be used only in the Mental Ability category. Testing outside the school must be performed by a licensed psychologist. It shall be supported my two of the three remaining categories. One of the three remaining categories must be a nationally normed test.
Fulton County’s Multiple Criteria - The Basics:

To qualify for the TAG program, a student must meet **3 of 4 criteria**:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mental Ability</th>
<th>Achievement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CogAT: 96%</strong></td>
<td><strong>ITBS: 90% +</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbal</td>
<td>Stanford 10: 90% +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative</td>
<td>In the areas of <strong>Total Reading</strong>,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Verbal</td>
<td><strong>Total Math</strong>, or Compete <strong>Battery</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Composite</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Creativity</th>
<th>Motivation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TTCT: 90%+</strong></td>
<td>Motivational Ratings Scale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Completed by two teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>GRS: 90%+</strong></td>
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</table>
Facts About the Elementary TAG Program:

At all grade levels, the goals of the TAG Program are to:

1. Develop advanced research methods and independent learning.
2. Generate new ideas and products by providing opportunities for creative thinking and creative problem solving.
3. Advance higher order and critical thinking skills.
4. Advance communication skills that incorporate new techniques, materials, and formats in the development of products and ideas that will be shared with real audiences.
Elementary students receive gifted services one day per week in a resource class. The student attends the gifted resource class at his/her home school.

- Program includes challenging interdisciplinary units which are grounded in science and social studies. Curriculum is interdisciplinary, but grounded in social studies and science. Three theme-based units per year are taught. Curricula is linked to Georgia Performance Standards.
- Continuation criteria include satisfactory performance in both the regular education and TAG classrooms as determined by the school.
More Facts about the Elementary TAG

• Students receive services one day per week in a resource, “pull-out” model.
• Some TAG classes may be combination classes (Example: 2nd & 3rd graders may be together)

• Curricula is interdisciplinary, but grounded in social studies and science. Three theme based units per year are taught.

• Curricula is linked to Georgia Performance Standards.
• While students participate in TAG, daily assignments in general education classes are eliminated with the exception of homework. All tests missed must be made up with the time decided between teacher and student.

• New information may be introduced in the regular class when students are attending TAG: The philosophy being that class doesn’t “stop” when students attend other classes. TAG students should be capable of missing one day’s instruction (with homework) and not fall so far behind that they can’t catch up. If this happens, the classroom teacher, TAG teacher, student involved, and his/her parents will need to conference.
Questions???
Cogburn Woods Elementary TAG teachers:

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