

October 4, 2021 October 4, 2021

Dear Parent or Guardian:

SC State R43-220 specifies the required screening and identification of all students in second grade for the academically gifted and talented program. In order to be identified as academically gifted and talented in South Carolina, students must have a composite aptitude score at or above the 96th national age percentile or meet two out of three dimensions of eligibility: aptitude, achievement, or performance.

Buist Academy for Advanced Studies

Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Karolyn Belcher
Chief Academic Officer

Michelle Simmons
Associate Superintendent
Elementary Learning Community

Shawntay White
Principal

For the initial step in this screening and identification process, all students in grade 2 will be given The Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT®), an aptitude test. **This year, our school's screening of second graders with CogAT® and ITBS® will be the mornings of October 11th, 12th, 18th, 19th, and 20th.** There will be five make-up days to follow in January 2022.

If your student receives a composite aptitude score at or above the 96th national age percentile on this assessment, then he/she will automatically qualify for the gifted and talented academic program. If your student scores at or above the 93rd national age percentile on the verbal, nonverbal, quantitative or total portion of the aptitude test, then your student will continue into the next phase of screening for the high achievement dimension.

For the achievement dimension, all students in grade 2 will take the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS®). Additionally, grade 2 students will also take the MAP® assessment. Both of these assessments can be utilized for academically gifted and talented screening. Students who have scores on either the reading or the math tests at or above the 94th national percentile will meet the achievement dimension of eligibility.

For 2021-22, The South Carolina State Department of Education is requiring schools to assess all students (including those who are learning in a virtual environment) for **CogAT® and ITBS® on-site and in-person** in a group setting, while adhering to all state and local safety guidelines pertaining to COVID-19.

Your child's participation in these assessments offer the possibility of him/her being identified as having high academic potential and need for specialized educational programs and services to match their unique characteristics and needs. Most of Charleston County's services for the academically gifted are provided by the SAIL Program, an acronym for Students Actively Involved in Learning.

Please encourage your child to maintain normal routines at home during the testing period. It is best not to schedule equally demanding activities during this time. Please plan for your child to go to bed early and eat a good breakfast during the testing time frame. It is a pleasure to work with you in the educational development of your child. If you have questions, please contact me, Anna Louise Vitek, at 843-724-7750 ext. 72704.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna Louise Vitek". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a stylized 'V'.

Anna Louise Vitek
Elementary School Counselor, Buist Academy for Advanced Studies