

Franzen Intermediate School
Talented Program Survey for Parents
2004-05 Results

What grade is your child in?
(Circle one)

Third - 6 Fourth -7 Fifth - 4 **total 17**

Did you attend the presentation for
the Talented Program on
curriculum night? (Circle one)

Yes - 10 No - 7

The presentation at curriculum
night gave me specific information
regarding the program. (Circle one)

Yes -11 No -1 No answer - 5

If you answered no, to the above question, what additional information would you
like?

Comments:

- I went 2 years ago.
- We only found out my child qualified for the TAG program after Curriculum Night.
- The flier gives plenty of information.
- We do not feel it is appropriate to call all parents of "TAG children to a presentation on the night of curriculum. It makes everyone feel uncomfortable and creates divisions amongst the parents. A separate time or just a packet is sufficient.

Do you understand the expectations of
the Talented Program? (Circle one)

Yes - 17 No - 0

If you answered no, to the above question, what additional information would you
like?

- All children have special gifts and talents! We feel that some of the teaching methods used in TAG could apply to all children or include children in some topics offering the option of extensions to all. This creates an environment where all children feel they have opportunities to stretch themselves on certain topics. It builds more self-confidence and higher self-esteem.
- Did they take an IQ test?

Are you familiar with the identification
process used to select students for
participation in the Talented Program?
(Circle one)

Yes 15

No - 2

If you answered no, to the above question, what additional information would you like?

- How are students selected?
- We feel that the district over tests the students losing the validity of the tests, because students lose interest and desire to perform well. Way to many! We lose a month of instructional time. We would rather see students go to Peacock to see a play performance or band performance. More memorable and enriching. I feel quantity in writing was more important than quality. This does not teach good writing.

What are the strengths of the current Talented Program?

- Please continue this program and continue to expand the boundaries.
- It challenges my child so he doesn't get bored.
- It keeps children more challenged and helps prevent boredom and possible negative impacts like behavioral problems when they feel bored
- Children are challenged to learn more difficult subject matter
- Creative thinking, imaginative and conceptual
- They challenge my son and I love the program
- The writing exercises have improved my child's writing skills and made him more confident in his writing abilities.
- Program presents a good challenge for our child
- Its ability to challenge the children in any and all subjects
- I am pleased with the program.
- Pushes students beyond where they normally would set their goals or expectations. Additional opportunities in learning and creativity.
- It helps my child excel academically.
- I like the fact that the kids read chapter books and analyze the books.

What recommendations for improvement do you have?

- Slightly less amount of work; especially homework.
- We would like to receive more feedback from the teacher throughout the school year.
- I'd like to see more coursework other than just reading
- More interaction with parents and the talented program teachers. What can parents do at home to support the student - develop student strengths.
- I do not feel that my child was at all comfortable nor was I when their slide shows/videos from the TAG children were presented to the entire 5th grade. Again of the children could have participated in that extension of some sort, or only share the movie/video with the TAG children. That was really using poor judgment as professionals. All children at all grade levels should give many oral presentations/practice public speaking on whatever topic they are learning.

Does the District pamphlet clearly explain the Talented Program?

Yes - 17

No - 0

If you answered no, to the above question, what additional information would you like?

- No Comments

Does the extension log communicate to you the extensions implemented in the classroom?

Yes - 13

No - 1

Somewhat -3

- Could be clearer

In general, does your child feel challenged by the extension opportunities?

- Challenged most of the time
- Needs to be challenged more
- I would like to see more challenging work given to the kids in other areas
- Really appreciated the phone call asking our opinion - Excellent Job. He enjoys the creative component on TAG.

Was the Talented Program discussed during your child's parent conference in November?

Yes - 16

No - 0

No answer - 1

- We would like to conference with all teachers my sons are in contact with daily if they switch classrooms and we need a new math program. For many of our children's assignments, teachers give very little feedback, if any at all. Rubrics - fifth grade does a great job. Students are never expected to make corrections or hear if they are making growth/steady progress/ways for improvement/positive comments. Just receiving percentages/stickers is not valuable feedback, which helps children learn from their mistakes. Again rushing through units isn't meaningful or sticking in long-term memory. Make the units fun. Fifth grade does a great job of this. Wish the entire district would do more of what they are doing, songs, poems, skits, presentations, dioramas and art.

Does your child understand the expectations of the Talented Program?

Yes - 17

No - 0

What overall grade would you give the Talented Program at Franzen Intermediate School?

A - 9

B - 6

C

D

F

No Grade - 1

- You are doing a good job with the resources at hand! Do we have the resources to create clubs like the knitting club? That was great! Journalism, Chess, Student Council, Art, Technology, Intramurals for 3-5? Would love to see kids hooked on Franzen.

Please write any additional comments.

- I believe that the program is very important and helps the children in it excel as best they can
- Program like this also help our child socially. He is interested in learning and not one to horse around and act more like the typical boy the program has helped him develop new friendships with children with similar interests. Thank you.
- When kids are working on reading packets, they have a lot of extra homework everyday for a few weeks then nothing for a while. During the packet time with that plus regular homework we were doing work each night for hours, which I think is a bit much at this level especially when kids are involved with other

things and are still doing homework at 10:00 at night. It is also frustrating when kids don't understand something and when I don't understand it either. It is hard to call someone at 9:00 at night for help and the child is crying cause they don't know what to do, so we just guess. I don't think it really is teaching them anything. There should be enough time in school to work on these projects so they can get help if needed. Challenging the kids is fine but frustrating them isn't. I am glad there is a program like this in the schools. I know many districts do not have it and I am grateful. I just think the big reading projects need to be looked at. Thank you.

- We realize this survey is just for TAG, however, we feel these are great tools for all areas, and should be sent out more to make our schools excellent. Communicating with parents when teachers are taking a leave for any reason is imperative. We should be given a name of the substitute so we know who to contact when a problem arises. Teachers should write more letters to parents about individual classroom happenings and invite parents to volunteer in the classroom. You have so much to gain from free service. It's a shame you don't use all your resources. Even if it is for filing etc. It also makes your teachers better teachers and children improve their academic performance when parents are directly involved in the classroom. (This is a researched proven fact) Art should be more kid-friendly, fun and developmentally appropriate. Any project that lasts longer than 2 –3 weeks has lost the interest level of all students. Tests are not mandated by the state so why do we give them in 3-5? This is the one time in the week children should release their creative talents and have fun. It saddens me so much to see children not like or enjoy art. Bring it down to the elementary level (Make pumpkins, wizards, self-portraits, totem poles, gifts for holidays, etc.) Kids should love school, especially art. Remember these are the best years of their lives, there is enough time in college for serious, complex projects. Thanks for doing this. Thanks for reading this. We hope it is some useful feedback.
- I sometimes get confused. My son can spell and do math that is being taught without a problem. He does homework within a couple of minutes. While I feel TAG stories made him think out of the box, it did not challenge him in different areas.
- I am seeing much more done with the TAG program currently than in the past when my older son was involved. The reading and writing activities are challenging but good and improve my child's skills. I also like the fact that the child can opt out of extensions in a certain subject (i.e.: math) if the child feels stressed out from doing all the extensions.