Unicorn Program
Gifted Education
ADHS 2014
“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”
“IT'S NOT HOW SMART YOU ARE – IT'S HOW YOU ARE SMART!”
Gifted and Talented Education

- **Gifted students** are those whose potential is distinctly above average in one or more of the following domains of human ability:
  - Intellectual
  - Creative
  - Social
  - Physical

- **Talented students** are those whose skills are distinctly above average in one or more areas of human performance
Any program for giftedness must take into account the diversity of abilities and the psychological characteristics displayed by gifted adolescence.

Giftedness is found in all cultures and socio-economic groups.

We identify gifted students because all students should be given the opportunity to achieve their full potential.
Intellectually gifted students are students who are capable of learning at a faster pace, with less need for repetition.

Provisions are made so that these students can experience the challenge and excitement of an appropriate learning experience – one that is equal to their high potential.
Characteristics

Intellectual traits
- Exceptional reasoning ability
- Intellectual curiosity
- Rapid learning rate
- Facility for abstraction
- Complex though process
- Vivid imagination
- Passion for learning
- Early moral concern
- Powers of concentration
- Analytical thinking
- Divergent thinking/creativity
- Keen sense of justice
- Capacity for reflection

Personality traits
- Insightful
- Need to understand
- Need for mental stimulation
- Perfectionism
- Need for precision/logic
- Excellent sense of humour
- Sensitivity/empathy
- Intensity
- Perseverance
- Acute sense of self-awareness
- Nonconformity
- Questioning rules/authority
- Tendency to introversion
Also ........

- Stubbornness
- Non participation in class activities
- Uncooperativeness
- Cynicism
- Messy or disorganisation
- A tendency to question authority
- Emotional frustration
- Absentmindedness
- Low interest in detail
The Unicorn Program is:
- Based on ability
- Caters for different learning preferences
- Supports and enhances different cognition

How can this knowledge help me?
- Tendency to get questions that are too easy wrong? Start at the back of the test!
- Don’t want to hand it in because it doesn’t look as good as the picture in your head? Hand it in in sections or make sure your teachers see your drafts
- Self Assess and know the ‘thing’ you want to get better at next
What is the students responsibility?

- Work hard – get smart
- Give it a go – be a risk taker
- Do any preparation work for a lesson that is asked of you
- Don’t expect all the answers
- Don’t give up; negotiate
- Hold up your end of the learning contract
- Talk school with home
What is the overall goal?

- **Academic growth**
  - To become better at what you do and how you do it irrelevant of your starting point.
  - Love learning – skills for lifelong learning
  - Self knowledge
What can you do as parents?

- Talk/listen re school work and dilemmas
- Help students manage commitments
- Forced-choice dilemma
- Help students recognise when work is completed – but does mean the learning stops.
- Work in partnership with the teachers – lets us know 😊
Strategies which may help time management

- Assist the student to break down the project or assignment into stages or smaller parts.

- Assist the student to develop a checklist of tasks to be completed within each stage of the project.

- Work with the student to develop time estimates for each stage.

- Assist the student to create a list of resources he or she may need for the project. Factor the search for, or development of, these resources into the project timeline.