

# Highly Capable Learners

Puyallup School District

## Young Scholars Program Grades K-2

The Young Scholars Program is for highly capable students in kindergarten, first, and second grade. Identified students at each elementary school participate in a multi-age group for two 30-minute sessions each normal school week. The program is available in each elementary school.

The learning activities in the Young Scholars Program are designed for highly capable students. The activities extend basic skills and supplement regular classwork. In the Young Scholars Program, students study patterns in language and learn about the world around them through science topics. The activities help students develop a rich vocabulary and encourage them to think deeply. The multi-age grouping gives students a chance to work with other students who have similar learning needs.



### Application Deadlines for the Young Scholars Program

**October 7, 2022:** Fall kindergarten testing

**April 7, 2023:** Spring kindergarten and first grade testing

## Highly Capable Students

Highly capable students are students who perform or show potential for performing at significantly advanced academic levels when compared with others of their age, experiences, or environments. Outstanding abilities are seen within students' general intellectual aptitudes, specific academic abilities, and/or creative productivities within a specific domain. These students are present not only in the general populace but are present within all protected classes. WAC 392-170-035

Students who are highly capable may possess, but are not limited to, these learning characteristics:

1. Capacity to learn with unusual depth of understanding, to retain what has been learned, and to transfer learning to new situations;
2. Capacity and willingness to deal with increasing levels of abstraction and complexity earlier than their chronological peers;
3. Creative ability to make unusual connections among ideas and concepts;
4. Ability to learn quickly in their area(s) of intellectual strength; and
5. Capacity for intense concentration and/or focus.

Parents, teachers, staff, students, or members of the community may refer a student. Forms are available on the district website.

#### For more information:

<http://www.puyallup.k12.wa.us/>

DEPARTMENTS/PROGRAMS > HIGHLY CAPABLE PROGRAMS

253-841-8646 or 253-864-5811

## Fall Kindergarten Identification

Identification steps for students currently in kindergarten:

1. Interested parents complete a *Highly Capable Application* online.
2. Students with applications on file are given ability and achievement tests at the Kessler Center on a school day. Parents provide transportation to and from the testing location. Additional information about the student is provided by the teacher.
3. The data is reviewed by a selection committee.
4. The committee decision is based on:
  - a. A preponderance of evidence from the profile data demonstrating that a student is among the most highly capable;
  - b. Evidence of clear need for highly capable services; and
  - c. Determination of which students would benefit the most from inclusion in the district's program.
5. The assessment results and placement decision are mailed to parents.
6. Identified kindergarteners begin Young Scholars in January.