

RED LION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Taking a Gifted Education Program  
from NOTHING to SOMETHING!**



PAGE Conference Presentation by  
Kimberly Schlemmer  
November 16, 2017



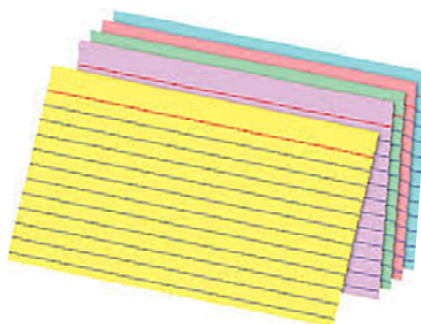
*The mission of the Red Lion Area School District, in partnership with our communities, is to prepare all students to reach their greatest potential, thus becoming responsible and productive citizens.*



RED LION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Who do we have in the audience today?

- ✓ Teachers
- ✓ Building Administrators
- ✓ Central Office Leaders
- ✓ Parents
- ✓ Friends
- ✓ Students

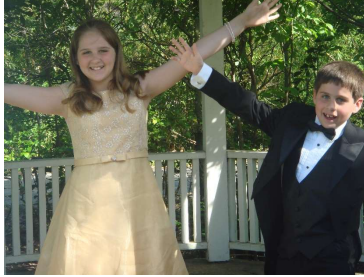


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## RED LION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

I'm just like you!



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## RED LION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Demographics of Red Lion

- ✓ Suburban school comprising an area of 141 square miles.
- ✓ There are a total of 7 elementary schools, 1 junior high, and 1 senior high school.
- ✓ 5,174 students enrolled with 378 professional staff. The student: teacher ratio is 14:1.
- ✓ 15% are minorities, 41.71% Economically disadvantaged, 0.58% ELL, 14.60% special education, and 2.34% gifted students.

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## RED LION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Presentation Agenda



only travel to  
places that leave  
you richer than  
you arrived.



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## RED LION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

### All journeys begin with the first step!



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## RED LION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

### How do you know what's right and wrong?



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## RED LION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Important things to consider



# Parents

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- Sometimes personal agendas can bring about change!
- Board committee created with parents, administrators, and teachers
- Discuss current state of affairs
- Begin open, honest communication
- Collect feedback-and use it!



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## RED LION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

- React to the sense of urgency from Board
- HIRE and MAINTAIN best staff
- Establish purpose
- Create learning opportunities
- Explore what's out there
- Find the experts
- Be open-minded
- It's not about you



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## RED LION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Find people that are passionate
- Encourage creativity
- Establish mentorships
- Maintain compliancy
- Ask questions
- Find the best answers
- Work within the budget
- Be Flexible



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## RED LION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Be readily accessible and available
- Provide learning opportunities
- Make resources available
- Involve them in discussions
- Listen to them
- Love them as they are
- Show them the way
- The label is not important

# Parents

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## RED LION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Help them understand "gifted"
- Ask them their opinions
- Allow for success and failure
- Include them in decision making
- Teach them to advocate for themselves
- Include lots of collaboration and team building
- Teach them to deal with anxieties
- Let them be a kid



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Some things we've done successfully:

[http://www.rlasd.net/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC\\_ID=597386&type=d&pREC\\_ID=905453](http://www.rlasd.net/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=597386&type=d&pREC_ID=905453)

www.rlasd.net →

Departments →

Gifted Education



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# RED LION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Gifted Philosophy

Our mission is to cultivate and support the intellectual, social, and emotional needs of the gifted student by providing challenging educational opportunities that focus on critical and creative thinking and allow interaction among intellectual peers.

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# RED LION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



**There were occasional moments when she questioned her decision to work with truly gifted students.**




Download from [Dreamstime.com](http://Dreamstime.com)

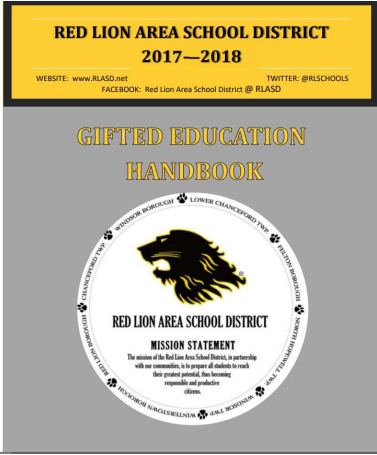


58804895  
Andriewgen | Dreamstime.com

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**NOV 7**  
4pm

**GIFTED COMMITTEE MEETING**  
LJM Elementary

RED LION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

### GIFTED OUTREACH


A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION



# YORK PAGE


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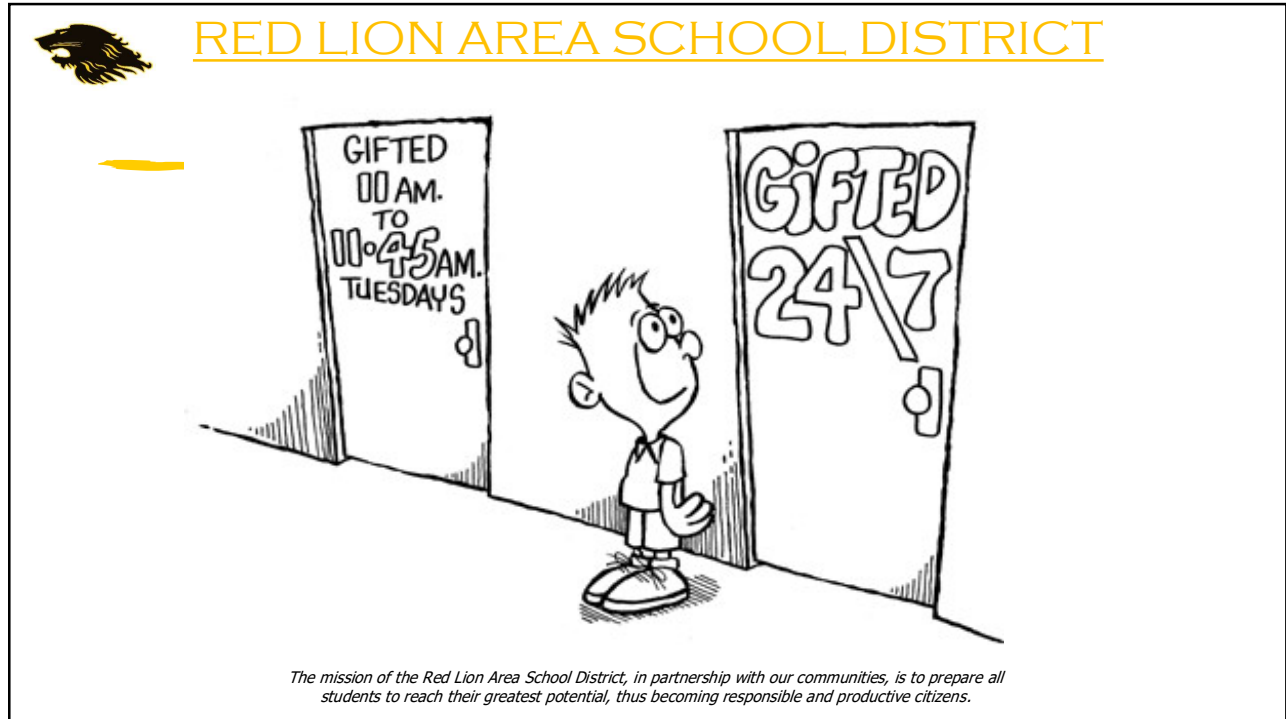
## RED LION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

What is the #1 request of gifted students for their parents in helping them feel happy, successful, and content?

- Please don't expect so much of me.
- Classes are harder than they were before.
- Don't praise me when something was easy.
- I am a perfectionist; I won't try it unless I think I'll be good at it so I need to be encouraged to try new things and understand that failure is an option.
- Being good at one subject doesn't mean we're good at all of them.
- We make mistakes. You don't need to overanalyze every one. Most of the time, I understand what I did wrong.



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**RED LION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

What are 3 important things my gifted students want their teachers to know in order to them feel happy, successful, and content?

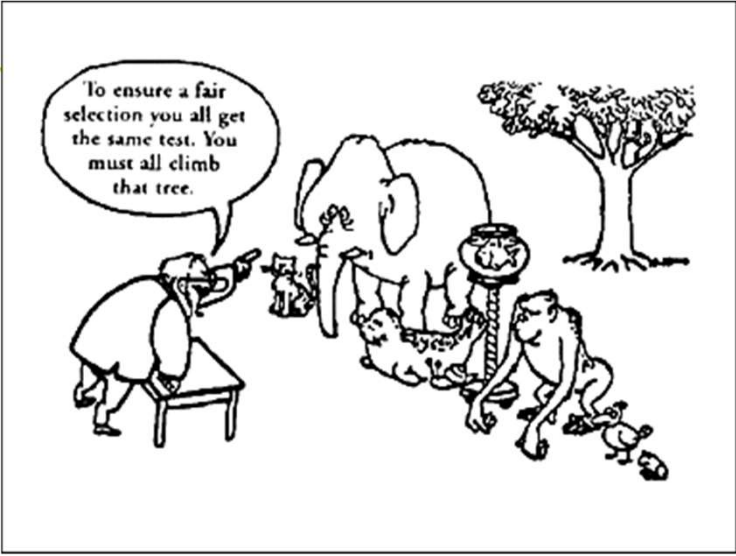
- Please don't assume I don't need help.
- Sometimes I take a long time to process things.
- I like to take my time with my thoughts and don't like to work fast.
- I'm sometimes afraid to take on things that I don't think I'll be good at.
- Please don't always stick me in group with kids who need help.
- I might challenge you. Don't take it personally.
- I might underachieve because I'm not challenged and/or because I'm afraid of you giving me extra work.
- Being gifted in one area doesn't mean I'm gifted in all of them.

differentiation  
does not mean  
more... it means  
**different**


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## RED LION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

What are the important things my gifted students want their peers to know in order for them to feel happy, successful, and content?

- ✓ When we're working on different work in class, we are learning new things so we don't have to relearn things we already know.
- ✓ Seminar is not all fun and games! It's hard work to improve skills that will help us in the future. We don't go to play.
- ✓ Sometimes our classmates are jealous and we don't know how to explain the different treatment.
- ✓ We just want to be a regular student sometimes.



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EGS102-TS



"Mr. Wickers called me 'gifted' in front of the whole class. I'm ruined."

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## Our Journey continues...



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### Evaluation Focus Group

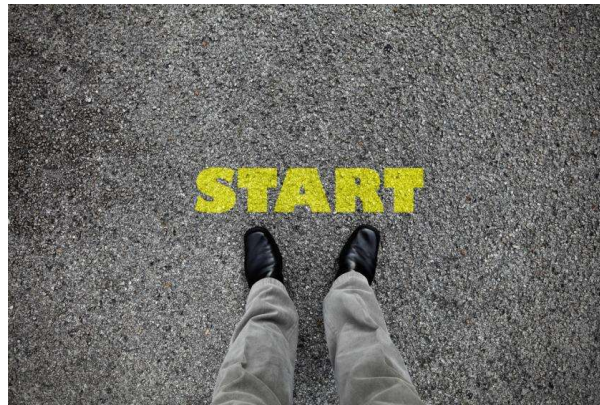
- ✓ How have you been notified of the nomination procedures process in the past?
- ✓ What can be done to make the nomination procedures easily accessible?
- ✓ What data is needed to determine a student's eligibility into the gifted program?
- ✓ How can we create a consistent identification process known to all school personnel?
- ✓ What professional development have you participated in regarding the identification of gifted students?
- ✓ What professional development is needed?

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### You have to start somewhere!



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## Thank you!

RED LION AREA  
  
 SCHOOL DISTRICT

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# RED LION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

WINDSOR BOROUGH LOWER CHANCEFORD TWP  
 CHANCEFORD TWP FELTON BOROUGH  
 RED LION BOROUGH NORTH HOPKINSON TWP  
 WINTERSTOWN BOROUGH WINDSOR TWP



**RED LION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**MISSION STATEMENT**  
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