

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Clear Fork Valley Local Schools assesses sixth grade and 2nd grade students using two standardized tests. The first one is called the CogAT which is designed to measure a student's cognitive ability. Similar to an IQ score, where 85-115 is considered average, the VQN (verbal-quantitative-nonverbal) score of 116 and higher results in an above average cognitive score, when compared to same aged peers. In addition to using these scores to guide instruction, we use them to identify students who may be gifted. As defined by the Ohio Department of Education and outlined in the Law, any student who obtains a score of **128 or higher on the CogAT VQN is identified as gifted in superior cognition** and can be served in any area. Should this be true for your child, a letter will be sent home with this identification.

The second test results are from the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. The Iowa test score is a nationally normed percentile score. For example: A score in the 72nd percentile on this exam means the student scored higher than 72 percent of all the students of the same age group who took the same exam— regardless of the actual score.

The Ohio Department of Education & Workforce has established criteria for identifying students who are gifted in the specific academic areas of reading and/or language, math, science, and social studies. **Students who score at the 95th percentile or higher on a state approved, nationally norm-referenced achievement test indicates that they have gifted abilities in that academic area.** Should this be true for your child, a separate paper will be sent home outlining this identification.

Assessments are a vital part of education and help guide us as a school to evaluate the effectiveness of our instructional program and to plan instruction for your child. However, it is important to remember that standardized testing is only one indicator of your child's ability. Other assessments, projects, classroom activities, and teacher and parent input are all valid ways of determining the growth of your child.

Should you have any additional questions when viewing your student's report, please do not hesitate to contact your student's building principal or gifted coordinator.