

ALPINE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Department of Gifted Services
Important Testing Information for
Junior High Academic Studies Programs
For the 2010-2011 School Year

Dear Alpine School District Parents/Guardians:

To meet the diverse needs of academically advanced students, Alpine School District has established core subject courses at an advanced level for seventh and eighth graders. These Academic Studies Programs (ACADs) are located in eight different junior high schools within the District. (See backside for individual sites, locations and subject offerings.)

The purpose of this letter is to inform all parents/guardians of sixth graders about the opportunity to test for placement consideration in an ACAD program. Identified students will be offered placement and invited to meet with the teacher(s) to learn more about their specific program(s). The identified students and their parents/guardians will then make the final decision to accept or decline placement.

POSSIBLE INDICATORS TO CONSIDER PRIOR TO HAVING A STUDENT TESTED:

- The student's 5th grade IOWA test scores are at the 85th percentile or above in Reading, Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and/or Complete Battery.
- The student's Utah State Core (CRT) test scores are at 90 percent or higher (4s) in Language Arts, Math, and/or Science.
- The student is reading at two or more grade levels above current grade.
- The current classroom teacher has suggested that the student could benefit from a more complex or in-depth curriculum as offered in a gifted program.
- The student is self-motivated and can plan, make decisions, and work independently.
- The student typically remains committed to a task until its completion.
- The student learns quickly and can recall information effortlessly.
- The student exhibits satisfactory to outstanding citizenship in both attitude and behavior.

To help in the prescreening process, here is some **ADDITIONAL, SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION TO CONSIDER:**

- The Academic Studies candidates must be identified for the program through a series of evaluations. The top thirty-four students are generally offered placement, and an additional four to six alternates are placed in a "candidate pool."
- The Academic Studies class is intended to be a two-year commitment for seventh and eighth grades.
- Academic Studies students will have assignments and homework that are greater in depth and complexity.

If you feel that your child could benefit from an ACAD placement and you would like to begin the consideration process, please go online to: <http://re-sql.alpine.k12.ut.us/surveys/acad.htm> and fill out the application for your child. You must have your child's Alpine School District (ASD) student number before entering the information. If a student has not been assigned an ASD student number, the numbers 555555 may be used for this application process. This number will indicate that a student is new to the district and has never been assigned a number. All other fields on the application must be filled in to submit the form.

THE ONLINE APPLICATION WINDOW WILL BE FROM SEPTEMBER 25TH TO OCTOBER 30TH. NO PAPER COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED THIS YEAR. Testing will be November 7 at Pleasant Grove Jr., November 14 at American Fork Jr., and November 21 at Orem Jr. The testing sessions will be 8 to noon or 1:30 to 5:30 on each of those dates. An email or post card will be sent to confirm an appointment for a student's testing session before the testing.

STUDENTS WILL BE TESTED IN NOVEMBER ONLY IF THEY SUBMIT AN APPLICATION BY THE OCTOBER 30TH DEADLINE. No late applications will be accepted. Following the schedule for testing will help place students quickly and accurately for the following school year. Testing students later in the year extremely complicates the placement process for all parties involved, including students, parents, gifted coordinators, teachers, counselors, administrators, etc.