Gifted and Talented Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is the definition of a gifted student?** Gifted and talented students are those who excel consistently, or who show the potential to excel, in general intellectual ability, specific subject matter aptitude, or creative and productive thinking. Just because a student says they are bored in school does not mean they are gifted and not all straight A students are gifted.

2. **What is the purpose of the Gifted and Talented program?** PEGS encourages the development of higher order thinking, investigative skills, in-depth analysis of ideas, early responsibility for self-learning, and leadership skills. Students who qualify are served through a pull out program.

3. **What is a pull out program?** A pull out program means that students are pulled out of their regular classroom for approximately 3 hours one day per week. Kindergarten students are pulled for about 2 hours once a week in the spring only. PEGS classes are held at Hillcrest Elementary for grades k-4 and at the Intermediate School for grades 5-6. Students ride a bus from their home campus to Hillcrest and the bus returns them to their home campus.

4. **What if my child doesn't qualify?** Not all high ability students will qualify for the gifted program. Students must receive at least 2 assessment scores in the 95% and 1 score in the 90% for placement in the program. If your child does not qualify, they may test again after one full calendar year. All students who are excelling in the classroom are given enrichment opportunities whether they are identified gifted or not.

5. **Is PEGS extra work?** Students who participate in the PEGS program have the ability to do advanced level projects and work. While a lot of extra time is not required, students must have the motivation, task commitment and time management to complete work for PEGS and keep their regular classroom grades acceptable.   They are usually not required to make up the work they miss in their regular classroom when they are out for PEGS.