

## **HCPS Gifted Education Advisory Committee 2024-2025**

### **Committee Overview**

The Gifted Education Committee discusses and reviews the impact of the Gifted Education Program on higher student achievement. The committee is charged with studying research surrounding giftedness and twice-exceptionality (2E) and recommending ways to infuse best practices into the manner in which we service identified students.

### **Meeting Summary**

The Gifted Education Advisory Committee met three times during the 2024-2025 school year (October 10, 2024, March 6, 2025, and April 3, 2025), focusing discussions on supporting Twice-Exceptional (2e) students. Meetings included a review of the updated Gifted and Talented website and utilized *Gifted and Distractable* by Julie Skolnick to guide discussions. The committee explored characteristics and needs of 2e learners while collaboratively generating creative ideas aimed at enhancing classroom support and instructional practices.

### **Enhancing Practices for 2e Students**

During our sessions, the committee engaged in generative dialogue to conceptualize innovative approaches for 2e students. Key focus areas that emerged from our discussions included creating flexible learning environments where students feel emotionally safe to take risks and explore their talents. The committee particularly emphasized the importance of structured yet open-ended exploration time, where students can pursue passion projects while developing executive function skills. Additionally, the integration of social-emotional learning was identified as critical for 2e learners who often experience heightened sensitivities alongside their exceptional abilities. The committee envisioned classrooms where technology serves as both an organizational scaffold and a tool for creative expression, supported by teacher collaboration strategies that honor diverse learning pathways and acceleration needs.

### **Recommendations and Next Steps**

The following recommendations were made by the Gifted Education Citizens' Advisory Committee:

- Review focus areas generated and infuse into professional development and instructional practices

- Create practical classroom strategies, checklists, and professional learning materials aligned with the outcomes to support teachers in addressing 2e needs
- Plan and deliver targeted professional development sessions using *Gifted and Distractable* and other research-based resources to build staff capacity