

Education

"THE REPORT CARD"

Is Your Child Gifted?

Yvonne Atkinson



Every parent has asked themselves these questions: "Does my child have those special qualities that will enable them to succeed in school and ultimately succeed in their chosen life's pursuits?" "Is my child academically talented and what should I do to assist them as they progress through each grade of their educational program?" "Is my child reading above grade level and should I contact the school and let them know that my child is inquisitive and has a high vocabulary?" These and countless other questions not only confront the parents, but they also confront those teachers, principals, and counselors who work with our gifted

students in the schools on a daily basis.

I chose to direct this week's article to the Academically Talented program offered in the Clark County School District because during the past few months, I have been asked by many parents about specifics of this school program. I have always directed them to our Special Student Services Department for additional information, after responding to their initial questions, and sometimes I have asked them to contact their school principal so that the student may be evaluated and their potential determined through a proper testing program. This area seems so important

to all of us I wanted to take this time and provide all my constituents with information about the Academically Talented programs. Let me begin by offering a comment from our printed brochure which says that our District, "is committed to an educational program that recognizes the unique value, talents, and needs of the individual student. This document goes on to report that the Academically Talented program is designed to provide an enriching environment for students with high potential whose giftedness creates a special educational need.

What then is a gifted child? The research has shown that children who display an interest in math and science, who have a broad vocabulary, are inquisitive by asking questions on a wide range of topics, and who comprehend the written word possess those initial characteristics for verbal giftedness. When parents observe such traits in the children, they are encouraged to contact the school and request that their child be tested for possible placement in one of the special academically talented

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SCHOOL TALK

By Dr. Marshall C. Darnell

Chaparral High School 1985 Southern Zone Football Champions

It is sometimes easy to identify outstanding achievement in sports because across the District, in every school there are countless trophies signifying excellence in extracurricular activities. One more trophy has been added to the collection at Chaparral High School because they have just won the Southern Zone Championship in football. But this school signifies more than accomplishment in athletic activities. It is a school with a rich history and tradition built on student success in academics, vocational education, scholarship, and leadership.

When talking with the principal, Mr. Carroll Johnston, while he is justifiably proud of the accomplishments of the football team, he shows the same pride in talking about the Advanced Placement program for students with high academic potential. He states there are classes in English, foreign language, biology, chemistry, computer science, and math. In harmony with this advanced

placement program for high ability students, there is an honors program described by Mr. Johnston that covers all academic areas. Students may select to graduate with a scholars diploma. Such an achievement requires that a student complete 23 credits, which includes four years of English, three years of math, science, and social science, two years of a foreign language and physical education or ROTC, one semester of health, and five and one-half units of advanced elective work. Mr. Johnston noted that, "it is through the involvement of students, parents, and educators that academic excellence becomes possible." By providing an opportunity for challenge, Chaparral encourages all students to strive to achieve the educational excellence that paves the road to a secure and rewarding future.

So, while there may be trophies in the library or in the school's display cases, there are student trophies being exhibited through academic achievement

throughout the school curriculum. This year, there are 2200 students enrolled at Chaparral. This year's graduating class will have 50 scholars diploma recipients being recognized, and a number of other students identified as honor graduates.

While there is a strong academic program exemplified by these courses, for the students who are not interested in attending a college or university at this time a vocational program equal in caliber and intensity is available. Students may enroll in a business and office occupations program which features the latest equipment in electronic word processing, or they may select to schedule a class in drafting or architectural drawing. Once again, state of the art equipment is available, and computer assisted drafting instruction is available to these students.

There are classes in carpentry, auto mechanics, and five related areas in home economics. Then, because of the available job market, the administration and staff at Chaparral have built two unique vocational programs — one in commercial art and drawing, and the second in Technical Theatre Production. Commercial Art offers

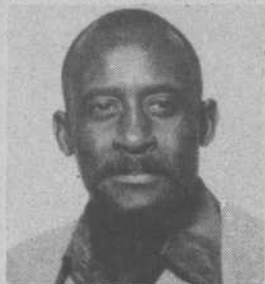
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Elementary Orchestra Festival Scheduled For Dec. 7

More than 800 youngsters will take part in the annual Clark County School District All City Elementary Orchestra Festival scheduled for Dec. 7 at Bonanza High School Little Theatre from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This free Festival, the first public performance by elementary students, will feature orchestras from 24 elementary schools throughout the school district.

Each orchestra will perform for 20 minutes and members of the audience are welcome to stay for all or part of the program.



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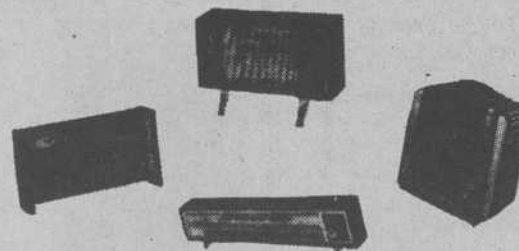


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