

# Ames Middle School

## Extended Learning Program (ELP) Application

The Extended Learning Program (ELP) at Ames Middle School is designed to help provide differentiated curriculum for high ability students within both small and large group settings. The ELP and classroom teachers work together to determine the level of challenge needed for our learners. As a result, the ELP teacher may work consistently with a small group, work occasionally in a regular or ELP classroom with select students, or act as a resource for the classroom teacher.

Although we do not formally identify for giftedness, each year we review multiple sources of student information to make determinations regarding needed differentiation for our high ability learners. Students that have been formally identified at the elementary level do not need to reapply. Students not previously in the program or new to the Ames Community School District need to fill out an application.

Identification of the gifted student is based on above average learning ability, high levels of creativity, and high levels of motivation. Parent questionnaires, information from teachers, standardized test scores and district assessments, academic achievement records, a student written responses, and a student interview provide the review committee with body of information about each nominee. The review committee, made up of ELP staff, AMS teachers and counselors and AMS administrators, makes the final selection of students. Upon completion of this review, the ELP teacher is responsible for notifying each nominee of the committee's decision.

Attached is the ELP Application. Please complete the packet and return it to either the Student Services or one of the three ELP classrooms. Please call if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

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# Ames Middle School Extended Learning Program Application

## General Information

Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Elementary School attended for 5th grade: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of 5th grade Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been in ELP (or a Talented and Gifted program in another district) before?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If yes, please check the number of years that you participated in the Extended Learning Program or in a TAG program in another district.

\_\_\_\_ 2nd \_\_\_\_ 3rd \_\_\_\_ 4th \_\_\_\_ 5<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_ 6th \_\_\_\_ 7th

Parents/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Business phone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission for the ELP teacher to review the educational record of my son/daughter for participation in the AMS Extended Learning Program. I understand that the ELP teacher will gather available information and that the application will be reviewed by the ELP committee at the building and district level and that I'll receive written notification of the results of their decision.

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ames Middle School  
Extended Learning Program**

**Student Nomination Form**

*Directions: The student briefly answers the following questions in complete sentences.*

1. What academic subject interests you most? Why?

2. What do you like to do in your spare time?

3. What do you like most about yourself? What would you change if you could?

4. What goals have you set for this year? How will involvement in ELP help you to meet those goals?

6. Is there anything else that you would like us to know about you?

**Ames Middle School  
Extended Learning Program**

**Parent Nomination Form**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*The Parent Observation form includes sections for relevant information about your child and his/her general behavioral characteristics. Please be specific if there is information that you feel is important to our understanding of your child's capabilities in a certain area. Your comments in completing this form will enable the instruction team to gain a sense of your child's abilities, interests, and learning style. Circle the number which best describes your child.*

**1 = Rarely    2 = Occasionally    3 = Frequently    4 = Consistently**

**Ability to Learn**

Exhibits exceptional memory	1	2	3	4
Demonstrates in-depth knowledge	1	2	3	4
Displays persistent/intense focus on one or more topics	1	2	3	4
Acts highly reflective and/or sensitive to his/her environment	1	2	3	4
Learns and adapts to new cultures easily	1	2	3	4
Gains knowledge quickly and easily	1	2	3	4
Acquires language at a rapid pace	1	2	3	4
Learns skills independently and makes connections without formal instruction	1	2	3	4

**Application of Knowledge**

Demonstrates highly developed reasoning	1	2	3	4
Employs complex problem-solving strategies	1	2	3	4
Uses and interprets advanced symbol systems in academics, visual arts, and/or performing arts	1	2	3	4
Understands/applies/transfers abstract concepts	1	2	3	4
Acts as an interpreter, translator, and/or facilitator to help others	1	2	3	4
Uses technology in advanced applications	1	2	3	4
Makes advanced connections and transfers learning to other subjects/situations/cultures	1	2	3	4
Communicates learned concepts through role playing and/or detailed artwork	1	2	3	4

**Creative/Productive Thinking**

Sees the familiar in unusual ways/Does not conform to typical ways of thinking or perceiving	1	2	3	4
Shows signs of being highly creative and/or inventive	1	2	3	4
Demonstrates unusual fluency and flexibility in thinking and problem-solving	1	2	3	4
Expresses ideas, feelings, experiences, and/or beliefs in original ways	1	2	3	4
Displays keen sense of humor	1	2	3	4
Appears highly curious	1	2	3	4
Generates new ideas/new uses/new solutions with ease	1	2	3	4
Perceives and manipulates patterns, colors, and/or symbols	1	2	3	4

## **Parent Nomination Form, continued**

### **Motivation to Succeed**

Demonstrates ability to lead large and/or small groups	1	2	3	4
Meets exceptional personal and/or academic challenges	1	2	3	4
Explores, researches, and questions topics/ideas/issues independently	1	2	3	4
Appears poised with adults and engages them in adult conversations	1	2	3	4
Exhibits a strong sense of loyalty and responsibility	1	2	3	4
Demonstrates exceptional ability to adapt to new experiences	1	2	3	4
Strives to achieve high standards especially in areas of strength and/or interest	1	2	3	4
Shows initiative, self-direction, and/or high level of confidence.	1	2	3	4

### **Critical Thinking**

Demonstrates conceptual thinking	1	2	3	4
Enjoys complex problem solving strategies	1	2	3	4
Exhibits highly developed reasoning	1	2	3	4
Articulates the thinking process	1	2	3	4
Makes connections between concrete, symbolic, and abstract	1	2	3	4
Identifies with other's point of view	1	2	3	4
Supports ideas and opinions with evidence	1	2	3	4
Articulates reasonable consequences or implications	1	2	3	4

### **Challenging Gifted Behaviors**

Demonstrates low self esteem	1	2	3	4
Develops own strategies for success	1	2	3	4
Appears Non-conforming	1	2	3	4
Questions authority	1	2	3	4
Hides Intellectual ability	1	2	3	4
Displays perfectionist traits	1	2	3	4
Shows signs of disorganization	1	2	3	4
Exhibits inconsistent behavior	1	2	3	4

### **Social/Affective needs**

Reveals high self esteem	1	2	3	4
	1	2	3	4
Shows evidence of depression or of being withdrawn	1	2	3	4
Works well with others—socially connects with his/her peers	1	2	3	4
Connects socially with adults	1	2	3	4
Exhibits low motivation for learning new things—lacks interest in exploring new topics	1	2	3	4
Gains attention of adults/peers in negative ways	1	2	3	4
Displays an inability to concentrate	1	2	3	4

**Parent Nomination Form, continued**

1. How does your child learn something new? (reading/doing/seeing/hearing).

2. What does your child do very well? (Please attach any artifacts of student work— poem /drawing /test /project /conversation /video /pictures).

3. In what extra activities does your child participate? Please list any special accomplishments? (Examples: Weekend classes/Super Summer/Dance/Scouts).

4. What problems, if any, is your child having at school? Please add any extra comments about your child that you believe may maybe relevant. (Social issues, academics, organization, motivation, underachieving, homework completion, etc.)