



# MONTCLAIR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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**FRANK SEDITA**

Supervisor of World Languages & ESL, K-12

November 18, 2020

Dear Parents & Guardians,

The district's Department of Equity, Curriculum & Instruction is continuing to evaluate and refine Montclair Public Schools' Students Accelerated in Learning (SAIL) gifted and talented programming. On January 13, 2020, Governor Phil Murphy signed into law A4710, the Strengthening Gifted and Talented Education Act. This new law has initiated several actionable steps that will be taken by the district to ensure the development and subsequent implementation of an equitable gifted and talented program.

At the core of this initiative, we will be reconvening a SAIL committee focused on enhancing both the gifted and talented universal screening process, as well as continuum of services offered to identified students in the content areas of English Language Arts and mathematics. This committee will be composed of key stakeholders including district and building administrators, teachers, and parents/guardians. The committee's work will be guided by a gifted and talented educational consultant, Dr. Lenore Cortina, as well as the recent legislation that was passed. Additionally, the committee will conduct a needs assessment and document review of current programs and services to identify strengths and gaps, as well as ensure alignment of district goals, New Jersey legislation, and standards for best practice. The work of the committee will ultimately inform revisions to both the identification process and continuum of services offered in the district. Equity will remain at the core of the committee's work.

This fall, the district will commence a SAIL program pilot in the content area of English Language Arts for students in grades 1- 6. Students that were identified for the pilot will receive differentiated instruction within the mainstream classroom through the implementation of the SAIL toolkit. The SAIL toolkit is a district created resource that contains strategies and activities that support teachers in providing effective enrichment programming to identified gifted and talented students. Additional instructional resources designed for gifted and talented learners will also be implemented as part of the pilot. A workshop was facilitated for English Language Arts teachers of identified gifted and talented learners during the district's most recent professional development day on October 12, 2020. Families of students that have been identified to participate in this pilot will receive a written communication by November 30, 2020 with the implementation of services to soon follow. Data garnered from this pilot will further inform revisions to the district's gifted and talented service model.

The above information highlights several of the initiatives that have been and will continue to be undertaken during the 2020-2021 school year regarding Montclair Public Schools' SAIL gifted

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and talented program. The community will be apprised of updates as the district continues to strengthen and improve our gifted and talented programming. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Frank Sedita, Supervisor of World Languages & ESL, with any questions that you may have at 973-509-4230 or [fsedita@montclair.k12.nj.us](mailto:fsedita@montclair.k12.nj.us).

Sincerely,

***Frank Sedita***

Supervisor of World Languages & ESL, K-12