

Shiloh Academy Qualifying Q & A

Q. What is Shiloh Academy?

A. Shiloh Academy seeks to identify and provide programming to meet the unique needs of students who differ in their outstanding and potential abilities. Our goal is to provide rigor and enrich the learning environment through projects and activities during pull-out times each week. Shiloh Academy focuses its instruction in two academic areas: *reading and math*.

Q. How does my child qualify to be a part of Shiloh Academy?

A. Students will qualify for Shiloh Academy based on averaged star results, teacher input, and the student's end of year GPA. We will flag students that qualify at the beginning of the year, and will relook at the qualifiers again after the first semester to see if any additional students are identified.

- Average of **95% or above** on STAR achievement test
 - We will average the 3 most recent STAR assessments in reading and/or math to obtain this component.
 - We STAR test 5 times per school year
 - Weight-60% of the decision
- Teacher reflection/evaluation
 - Weight-20% of the decision
- Grade point average of **3.8 or above**
 - We will look at the end of the previous school year and/or at the end of the first semester.
 - Weight-20% of the decision

Q. Will my child be in and out of this program throughout the school year?

A. No, but students can be added in! After the first semester we will relook at our qualifier and see if any additional students can be added into our program for the second semester. However, please note that we do plan to reassess at the beginning of each school year to provide the opportunity to all students.

Q. Why are the expectations for Shiloh Academy different this year?

A. The expectations for Shiloh Academy are different this year because we are learning and growing! In reflecting on last school year, we knew we needed to continue to strive for consistency, high expectations, and incorporating more measures of identification. Multiple measures help us identify students who may struggle in one area, but excel in others. It's our hope that students that didn't quite make it this year will continue to embrace a growth mindset and rise to an admittedly high standard. Even if a child doesn't make it into the program year after year, we hope he/she will continue to seek challenges and work to become the best version of themselves.

Q. Is this a gifted and talented program?

A. Shiloh Academy is not considered a gifted and talented program. Our goal is ENRICHMENT. We currently do not have the resources of other districts to identify and launch a gifted program. However, it is in Shiloh's foundation to strive for academic excellence. Therefore, Shiloh Academy was created to enrich the learning environment that is already evident in our classrooms. We also will work alongside teachers to customize a program for success for a student who needs more than classroom academics.

Q. Is STEM a part of Shiloh Academy?

A. STEM lessons are available to math academy students this year with the help of some high school students who are completing a work based learning program! Math academy students meet with these high schoolers twice a week in effort to bolster STEM thinking. We also wanted to provide this opportunity for ALL Shiloh students. In order to do this, the high schoolers and/or Mrs. Speidel go into classrooms once a week to complete STEM activities with an entire class. Although we would love to see this program continue from year to year, it all depends on if we have high school students interested in this program.