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Why I am Thankful for Gifted Education

For my entire life, I have never really felt like I was able to truly express myself, except when I was in my gifted class. In gifted class, it's okay to know all of the answers; it's okay to be smart. Because of this, I think a lot of kids are able to let their guard down in a gifted class and just be themselves.

Everyday that I entered my gifted class, it was like entering a shelter, a safe place in the midst of the everyday battle that was general education. When I walked into my gifted class, I looked around and saw a room full of my closest friends. There is a bond between gifted kids that some people might not understand. This bond is crafted from years of shared hardships, from years of sitting in the same boring classes, and from the hope that maybe this class will be different. And the gifted class is extremely different. The gifted class moves so much faster, and it goes so much more in depth. Because of the small class sizes, each student can get more personalized instruction and go beyond just what is required in the abysmal standards. My eighth grade gifted language arts teacher taught me grammar so well that I am light years ahead of almost every kid today in my twelfth grade regular education language arts class.

One of my favorite things to do in life is learn, and without the gifted program, I honestly don't know if I would be able to say that, or if I would even know what that means. The gifted program has taught me what the love of learning is really about. It's about the absolute joy and sheer terror of realizing that the world is so incredibly big and unfamiliar. It's about realizing that there are so many things larger than yourself. Most importantly, it's about a deep passion to explore that unfamiliar world and to understand those things that are beyond everything you have ever known. I am thankful to the gifted program because it introduced me to my passion and continues to support me in the form of teachers and friends who want to join me on the quest to learn everything we can in hopes of changing the world some day.