

Honorable Mentions K-5
Akshay Warriar, Age 8
Albuquerque, New Mexico
S.Y.Jackson E.S.

Why I Am Thankful For Gifted Education

My name is Akshay Warriar. I am studying in 3rd grade in S.Y. Jackson elementary school. My teacher's name is Ms. Moses. I am in a full time gifted class. When I was in kindergarten, I was sent to first grade and when I was in first grade, I was sent to second grade. I started with Ms. Moses when I was in second grade.

I think I was tested for gifted because I already knew my grade level work. My grade level work was quite straightforward. When I came to Ms. Moses's class I thought I was challenged. In all the subjects I felt that I worked a grade level higher. The good thing about learning a grade level higher is that I am always learning new things. I can be studying earlier for college when I am in high school and have a good career.

I am thankful to be in Ms. Moses's class because of all the fun and exciting work we do. Some of the fun units we work on are:

*We worked with light bulbs

*We built robots

*Programmed the robots to move

*We studied Greek mythology

*We studied about people moving west

*We read a lot of interesting books like - The Lightning Thief, The Phantom Toll booth, Pippilong Stocking and The scarecrow and the servant

* We go to fun field trips like – Maxwell Museum, Los Golondrinas

Those are all fun stuff, which is why I am thankful for gifted education.

Aldenmooney, Age 8
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Osuna

If gifted education didn't exist, I would finish my work before everybody and get bored in my class. I wouldn't get challenged and I wouldn't know what to do with my free time. Sometimes, I might fall asleep or mess around in the classroom. I would probably get in trouble or I would fidget and not know what to do.

I like gifted math because it is very challenging, fun and has interesting story problems. I also like the extra field trips, activities, and projects. They help me to reach my goals, use all my skills at the same time, and my gifted teachers help me when I don't know what to do.

I feel like I get more attention in my gifted class than I do in my normal classroom, which makes me a better student when I return to my normal classroom. I like that the other gifted kids understand what I'm doing, sometimes the kids in my normal class don't always get what I'm doing or how I think.

I like my normal teacher because she referred me to gifted. She is really nice and understand as that I am different than the other kids. I know being gifted is a good thing and I am proud of being smart.

I enjoy my normal class because I know more kids and have more friends, but in my gifted class even though I don't know the kids as well, we are becoming friends because we spend all day Friday together and have similar ways of communicating.

I am very thankful for gifted education. I like being gifted!

Hannah Linder, Age 8
Cedar Crest, NM
San Antonito Elementary

I was so happy when I found out there was gifted education at my school! My Mom explained to me what gifted was when my older sister was put in a gifted class, and I hoped I would get in too. I thought it sounded just like the class for me. In my current class, it was tricky for me because I knew I did and thought things differently than my friends. I was doing things in a way I would not have normally done them. It was like I had to think in somebody else's mind. I am now with people that think the same way I do. I feel normal in gifted education.

My second year of gifted was the first time I realized there were other people like me. I am thankful to know this. I can be with these people and just be myself.

In my general education class, I don't understand why I have to do things over and over again. If I already know something, I don't have to do it as many times in gifted. This makes me feel really good and everything is more interesting and fun for me. I think in my gifted class I am using my time more wisely. I do not have to do things more times, so I can do more things. Without gifted education it would not be as easy to learn so many things each day. This makes me a better person.

ss601, Age 9
Bosque Farms, NM
Bosque Farms Elementary

Why I am Thankful for My Gifted Education

Why am I thankful for my gifted education? Well let me tell you why. There are some people who are not exactly quite right. There are other people who need just a tad bit of help. There are also people who are normal. Then, there are people like me and others. Some people think we will always come out on top no matter what. But they're wrong. They can too come out on top. The just need to work harder. I am very glad, and proud I am one of the smarter people. I am able to help others when they don't understand a math problem or something like that. Being a gifted student means I am able to understand more and I am very thankful for that. It's very nice to have gifted education, especially since you get pulled out to a different class.

I am thankful for my gifted education because things seem to be a little easier to understand. I love to teach other kids and tell them about the things I do in gifted. Sure, I might be a little bit above normal but that seems just to encourage other kids to be level to me and others. I love to see them marvel when they reach their goal. Having a gifted education means meeting new people too. Most of my friends I have now are because of gifted education. I have met many people in the gifted classroom. Most likely, I would not have met many of my friends. Having a gifted education means so much to me. I know that when I grow up I can be anything I want to be. Without a gifted education I wouldn't be where I am now, mentally and physically. Without gifted I would have to work a lot harder to become what I want to be. I want to become an electric engineer like my dad when I grow up. My dad gets to travel all over the world because of his job. My dad works at a lab up at Sandia and he knows and learns so much about chemicals.

Gifted education means so much to me and I know that it will help me in the long run. I love my teacher for gifted and she will let me go at my own pace. Things seem so much easier and I can be what I want to be and have when I grow up.

Camille Simmons, Age 9
Sandia Park, NM
San Antonito Elementary

Three Reasons to be Thankful for a Gifted Program

I am glad to be in gifted because I can be with kids like me. I am thankful to be in the gifted program because if I wasn't, I'd be bored. I am happy to be involved in gifted because I get to do fun stuff. Those are some of the reasons it is good to be in gifted. Later I will explain those reasons in my essay.

My first reason that it's good to be in gifted is that you can be with kids of your kind. You are not with kids or teachers who don't understand you, You are with people who do understand you. In my regular class people don't understand my thinking and the way I get my work done so fast.

My second reason it is good to be in gifted so you don't get bored in your other class. In non-gifted classes teachers have to repeat things a lot. That gets boring for gifted kids. I get bored a lot. That is another reason I am thankful to be in gifted.

My third reason is that being in the gifted program gives gifted kids the opportunity to learn in a fun way fit for them (going on more field trips). It gives gifted kids a way to learn which they like because it is at their level, not too hard, not too easy, just right! The gifted program is at a perfect level, in challenge and work. For example when I am in my normal class the work is too easy.

In my essay I have talked about three good things about gifted all of these things I am thankful for. In the gifted program you can laugh and smile knowing your learning and yet having fun! When you walk into our classroom you know it's a different kind of class. I love to be in gifted!

By Camille Simmons

Nectarguard, Age 10
Sandia Park, New Mexico
San Antonito Elementary

I'm in gifted. Sometimes I think to myself, what's good about gifted? I realized there was a lot of stuff I hadn't been thinking about, like how boring it was before. Basically that's what this essay's about. It's about how thankful I am for gifted.

The first reason I am thankful for gifted is because it's challenging. Without challenges or anything interesting to do, I end up staring out the window. Challenges keep you on your toes they keep you interested. They make you think unlike the stuff you learn over again in the normal class. Challenges are important especially when you are so bored your brain feels like it's melting. Challenges are awesome!

The second reason I am thankful for the gifted program is you get to be with people like you. Hanging out with kids like you is important because you don't feel like you're the only person in the world who feels bored and un-challenged. You don't get teased or made fun at. It feels good being with people who actually understand you. Friends in the gifted program are the only people who really are true friends.

The last reason I am thankful for the gifted program is that you get to do really fun things. For example, in my class we got to make confusing mazes from the shapes and other things we learned from geometry. We get to do projects about our passions. We even get to do musicals! It is very important to do fun stuff so that after you do the fun things relating to something, your learning it's interesting! I think fun stuff helps you learn.

Gifted is a great idea for kids who learn differently and need more to do. I told you about my reasons for being thankful for gifted, and told you why gifted is important. I didn't think about how boring it was before. I am really thankful for the gifted program because of all the wonderful things my class learns in gifted. Gifted was an awesome idea.

Vivian Li, Age 10
Albuquerque, NM
Zuni

Why I'm Thankful for Gifted Education
By Vivian Li

I'm thankful for gifted education because it makes a person stand out. Why would a smart person be in a regular class? It's wasting knowledge that can be used in learning new things. Like giving a chance to that person to show what they know, and extend that knowledge. Why waste time "learning" things that you already know?

It also gives people a time to see where they are in learning and to see how far they had come from the normal standards. And it's important to get a challenge, if you don't get a challenge, then you aren't learning. And learning is important; it prepares you for life in the future and helps you succeed it.

Gifted Education for me was a total relief because in 3rd grade, I was still doing double-digit addition and subtraction, which I already knew. When I went to Gifted Education, I immediately started learning multiplication. That gave a challenge for me and I did it well. Then, I went from "don't know" to "know" and "know in depth" and the time is well spent. So, in result, I learned more things in a shorter time period than that in a regular class which most of the things were taught I already knew.

In a gifted class, we have more people to ask and more answers to the questions we ask. Gifted Education is teaching us how to answer those questions, by answering the questions we are learning to raise our own questions. I read more books in my gifted class than all the books I read before I joined the gifted class. More important is that I read those books in depth and to read with questions in mind and meanwhile to raise questions if there are needs.

I like sunshine math very much. It gives us a lot of interesting training and yet very intelligent challenges. I'm glad for the people that experienced the similar situation, because we all have to face more challenges in our generation than the generation ahead of us (like our parents or grandparents). We've got more problems to solve in the world, and we have to answer them. And I am happy because I am more prepared to face them with this gifted program.

Michael Freeman, Age 10
Albuquerque, New Mexico
North Star Elementary

Mason walked down the quiet hall to her gifted classroom. No noise was buzzing in her ears and it was very peaceful. She could picture the children sitting in their seats and working on measuring angles, or learning sentences parts. Mason smiled to herself. She was going to her favorite place at school where she could do things that would be harder for most kids. Mason couldn't wait to do algebra and write creative skits. Maybe they would even do word puzzles.

When Mason arrived at the door, she pulled on the small golden handle and walked happily into the classroom. A word puzzle was on the board, and Mason readily sat down to solve it. At last, she had something that made her think. In her regular class, Mason already knew much of what they were learning. She could whip the answers out in a jiffy. With these gifted problems, she had to concentrate, and everything was at her level. Mason glanced at problem six and saw that she had to combine two of the groups of letters to make a word for a kind of storm. The choices were: TOR, ADO, ALL, QUP, and SQU. Mason thought carefully. TOR wouldn't go with anything. Neither would ADO or QUP. SQU wouldn't work with TOR, ADO, or QUP, but it would work well with ALL. A squall was, after all, a kind of storm. Mason jotted down her answer, then held the page close to her heart. She was so thankful to work at her level sometimes. Mason put down her paper and continued to think.

When Mason was done with her word puzzle, and so was everybody else, they began art time lines. The group had to research all kinds of art--Ancient art, Modern art, and others. Then they had to look up their times, and write information. When the group was having trouble deciding who would do what, Miss Lucero, the gifted teacher, said, "Mason should do the writing. She would be good for that." Mason smiled. She was very thankful for being with a small class, so the teacher could know everyone's individual strengths and weaknesses. Happily, Mason walked over to the computers and began typing.

Mason's group finished the art project, then hung it on the wall with the time lines from other classes. Then it was time to do skits. Mason was glad that they could do creative writing, and they didn't have to study one certain topic to write about. She picked her partners, then set to work. In the end, they came out with an 8 page skit. They performed it for the class, then it was almost time to go.

After they cleaned up, Miss Lucero read stories with holes. Mason was very thankful that the books weren't just every day books, but mind puzzlers instead.

At the end of class, Mason walked slowly from the classroom. She was very thankful for gifted education.

Lara Carrica, Age 10
Roswell, NM
Berrendo Elementary

Why do people pay money for really good athletes but not for good minds? Imagine a world without intelligence. Where would we be without Alvert Einstein or Sir Isaac Newton? If we didn't have great minds we would have so many problems in the world. Our world here today would be a mess filled with problems. Those highly intelligent minds didn't invent or discover by being like everyone else. Instead they experimented, took risks, and thought outside of the box. That's how we have a lot of amazing inventions that have solved so many problems. We still have many more to solve. We need to keep gifted in schools so those young minds can excel and help solve the other many problems that the world has. Why would they give more money to athletic people? Sports are fun but sports are not going to help solve problems. Make the world a better place and keep gifted in schools.

Passionately.

Lara Carrica, a fifth grade gifted student

Julie Lucero, age 11
Albuquerque, NM
North Star

I think Gifted Education is cool. It's awesome. It's radical! However you might say it, gifted education classes give gifted people more challenging work. I think anyone who was bored in school was glad when they invented gifted. This new kind of class gave them a chance to maybe learn something they didn't know instead of staying in regular class and doing work that's too easy for them.

I really like gifted because can be more fun than regular class. We get to do cool projects, like a Greek unit I did last year in Mr. Freeman's class. We were in different teams and the higher we got up on "Mt. Olympus", the more points we had from doing different tasks, like finding a solution for this problem: Bob the Cyclops has lost his giant contact he got at Eyemart. How can your team help him find his contact lens (remember, he can't see!) without getting killed? At the very end, we got to make up a Greek god/goddess and have a Greek banquet. So, all in all, it was pretty fun, and we learned a lot along the way.

We get to do more awesome projects in gifted. Here are just some of them:

- MathQuest™
- Alvin Ocean Explorer
- Trait Chandelier
- Greek Mythology
- Character Fish
- Humor Project
- House Construction

Gifted also teaches kids about Gifted Strands, which are requirements you have to know in Gifted. Those include self-understanding, interpersonal skills, thinking skills, communication, creativity, interest development, independence in learning, and achievement/advanced knowledge. I learned a lot about my strengths and weaknesses by doing self-understanding projects.

Since it's near Thanksgiving, what better time to tell why I'm thankful for gifted education? I am thankful because the gifted classroom can be a place where smart people can get away. I'm also thankful for the teachers who teach gifted. They are really hard workers.

Sometimes I look around my regular classroom and say, "Is anyone else in here BORED?" I feel like I've done everything that we learn in class already, but when I get to gifted, I feel like everyone's being included in the action. I realize, these are people like me. They know how I feel.

I have met some amazing friends in gifted. For example, some of my very best friends are in gifted with me. We have gifted twice a week, once on Tuesday, with just the people in my class, and one on Friday, with our class and another teacher's class. I like interacting with kids from different classes. It's fun seeing my friends and working with them.

I really enjoy gifted, from the teachers, to the projects, to the friends, to the memories, everything is fun about gifted.