

Max Dykeman, Age 10
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Osuna Elementary

I am thankful for gifted education because without it I would often be bored. School would be very monotonous. My ability wouldn't be challenged as much and I wouldn't reach my full potential. My education wouldn't be as in depth and I wouldn't learn as much. There are a lot of things we have learned in gifted that we haven't learned in regular class. Without gifted, I probably wouldn't know how to do things like adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions; dividing decimals; and converting decimals to percentages and improper fractions to whole numbers. I definitely wouldn't know as much about advertising, logic, the twentieth century, or Albert Einstein. I like how we learn things so thoroughly and only once in gifted. In regular class, we don't learn things very extensively and we learn them over and over again. I like how we're always busy in gifted, but in regular class, I always have to wait for the regular or below grade level kids to finish.

Every Friday, four gifted kids (including me) who are talented in math (more so than the other gifted kids) go to an extra math class while the regular class kids are doing their regular math. We are studying from a great book that talks about things that one should know not just for math, but for life. It gives true stories about what the chapter is talking about, and we always discuss what the book is saying. It has discussion questions at the end of each story and has lots more questions that test your understanding of the topic at the end of each chapter. I have never used anything like it or learned about what it teaches in regular class. The first chapter was called "Math and Science Will Tell You the Truth!" and it taught me how useful math and science are and how crucial it is to study them through true stories of many people dying because someone ignored the laws of math and science. The third chapter was called "It is Important to Keep an Open Mind" and it used true stories about brilliant and amazing inventions failing because people's minds were too closed to believe that they worked and were important. There are ten chapters to this book, and all of them are just as informative with crucial concepts that were new to me.

Without gifted education, I never would have learned these important life concepts, but have been in regular class, relearning the lattice method of multiplication. I am so glad that I could get out of regular class to learn things this important to life. I love gifted!