

Lieutenant Governor Diane Denish and Legislators



Artwork by Quinn Bryson
Bellehaven Elementary School – 3rd Grade – Age 9

New Mexico's gifted students want you to know...

“You don't develop world leaders such as Martin Luther King, Golda Meir, and Mahatma Gandhi by having them practice basic skills over and over again or by reiterating mundane concepts that they can undoubtedly learn faster than all of their schoolmates and, in some cases, even many of their teachers.”

(Drs. J. Renzulli & S. Reis, International Gifted Educators
and Past Presidents of the
National Association for Gifted Children)

Distributed by: New Mexico's Gifted Advisory Committee

New Mexico's gifted students are saying...

“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 and over again in the [regular education] classes. Challenges are important especially when you are so bored your brain feels like it's melting.... Gifted [education] is an awesome idea.”
(Anonymous, age 10, San Antonito Elementary School)

“Why do people pay money for really good athletes but not for good minds? Imagine a world without intelligence. Where would we be without Albert 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.... 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.”
(L. C., age 10, Berrendo Elementary School)

“Our teachers [in the gifted program], aware of our fierce opinions and ardor, love to provoke us and observe the fireworks as we animatedly discuss the day's political buzzword. Several weeks ago, we began discussing Thoreau's “Civil Disobedience” only to find that when the hour was up, we had sparred our way through the threat of federal control and the War on Terror, and soared on to the religious state of our nation, abortion, the ideal woman of the Cult of Domesticity, and the oppression of Poland throughout history.”
(A. P., age 17, Rio Rancho High School)

“Gifted children need time with other gifted children. Gifted children also need a more challenging school curriculum. Gifted children usually think differently than the average child. Sometimes in a normal class, we (gifted students) feel like we don't fit in, or that we can't be ourselves, because we feel like we are weird and different. Sometimes other kids might make fun of us and tell us we are weird because we think differently. Sometimes even the teacher cannot understand why we take a simple problem, stretch it out, and turn it into a deep thought problem...”
(S. W., age 11, Truman Middle School)