

***Welcome!***

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## **Welcome to the Extended Learning Program!**

This handbook is designed to provide you with an overview of the types of programming available for our high-ability students. Information has been collected from a variety of sources to help answer some questions you may have. The Extended Learning staff, classroom teachers, administrators, and parents have all assisted with this publication.

Communication is the essence of this program. Talk to those involved directly with your child. Other children may not need what your child does, and other parents' experiences may not be the same. Please contact the ELP teacher in your building or the classroom teacher as your primary sources of information. Please contact me with any additional questions you may have about the program.

The Extended Learning Program is designed to meet the needs of advanced learners in grades K-12 in Johnston Community Schools. The programming is varied, just as your children's needs are varied. Children change over time, so we identify students at different levels of service. Not all children will need the same services at the same time. We strive to be responsive to the students in our community.

Sincerely,

Kathy Paul  
Extended Learning Program Coordinator

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Whether you're exploring the opportunities for high-ability students in the Johnston School District or an experienced parent of students in ELP, we welcome your interest in the Extended Learning Program.

The idea for a handbook originated from the need to compile all the useful information and handouts that have been developed over the years. As the district has grown, increasing numbers of parents have had questions about ELP. We hope this handbook will help address some of the commonly asked questions and will be a "one-stop shopping" source of information about academic programs for high-ability students in the district. We have also included additional information about parenting, communication, and summer programs that may be of interest to you.

This handbook was jointly developed by the Johnston School District ELP staff and the Friends of Johnston ELP board. The Friends of Johnston ELP is a local group of interested parents, educators, and other persons interested in supporting the Extended Learning Program. Our organization supports our ELP staff, advocates for the needs of high-ability students in the district, financially supports ELP through donations and holds informative programs throughout the year for parents and teachers of high-ability students. We publish a newsletter throughout the school year to keep members abreast of ELP news, activities and achievements of students. We are affiliated with the Iowa Talented and Gifted Association.

We hope this handbook is useful to you. It has been designed so that specific pages may be removed as information is updated, so please keep this book handy throughout your child(ren)'s school years.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors  
Friends of Johnston ELP

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