Dear Families, February 20, 2015

Your student has been nominated for the Highly Capable Program for the 2015-16 school year.

Please see the enclosed brochure, which will give you more information about the program, as well as the nomination and assessment process.

Part of the assessment process for the Highly Capable Program is giving the CogAT test to students. This test measures learned reasoning and problem-solving skills in three different areas: verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal.

• The **Verbal Battery** measures a child’s ability to remember and transform sequences of English words, to understand them, and to make inferences and judgments about them.

• The **Quantitative Battery** tests the child's understanding of basic quantitative concepts and relationships that are essential for learning mathematics. Tasks measure both the understanding of relational concepts and the student’s ability to discover relationships and to figure out a rule or principle that explains them.

• The **Nonverbal Battery** measures reasoning using pictures and geometric shapes. This reduces the impact of language on the student's score. The Nonverbal Battery also appraises the student’s ability to use her/his cognitive resources in new situations.

Before the Highly Capable Program staff can administer the CogAT test to students, parents must give their permission. Enclosed is a permission form and postage paid pre-addressed envelope for returning the form. Testing will be conducted during the school day during the second half of March 2015 or during the month of April 2015.

Please let us know if you have any questions. We can be reached by phone at 360-428-6110 or by the email addresses listed below.

Sincerely,

Lori Knudson, Curriculum and Professional Development Director, lknudson@mvsd320.org

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Chad Norman, K-12 Highly Capable Program Director, cnorman@mvsd320.org