Program for talented is focus of concern

Students identified as intellectually gifted re-main in the regular classroom. A coordinator is provided to work specifically with the intellectual-ity gifted. The coordinator's responsibilities include counceling of the gifted student, teachers and par-

ents.
Farmington's program includes:

A committee that reviews and acts on referrals made by teachers, administrators and stu-

Assessment to determine whether a student is in the 98th percentile of intellectual ability.
 Individualized programming for the gifted student.

student.

"WE WANT to see that this (gitted) program is being evaluated on a long term basis," Tomasin said. "Parents are looking for something more solid said. "Parents are looking for something more solid said." Plants of the parents in proposal, "If has been observed that within our district, there are enormous differences from school to school in the way the program for gifted students is implemented. We see the need to equalize the delivery of services provided throughout the district."

More defining programming for gifted students is needed, Tomasin said. Currently, the district offers gifted students special seminars twice a week that deal with topics such as statistics or problem solv-

ing, for example. But it is up to the regular class-room teacher whether the gifted students on any given week will attend the seminars, Tomain said. Parents want to see changes in the teaching methods used in the gifted program. A balance slao must be struck between allowing the gifted stu-dents to work at an accelerated pace and allowing them time to develop emotionally, Tomasin said.

"THIS IS a need. We are not parents who are arrogant," Tomasin said. "We are not looking to carve out an elite position for our kids. There is that image out there that the gitted kids are elite. That is simply not true. These kidd do not achieve success any more than anyone else does." Parents would also like to see a variety of criteria used in determining which students are gifted and talented. The criteria, parents maintain, should include intellectual ability, plus other abilities, including art and music.

But Lewis disagrees. Programming for students with a high ability of artistic and musical talent is provided through the district's current art and music programs.

provided through the district's current art and mu-sic programs.

"It doesn't have to become a separate program apart from the art department," Lewis said. "A broad base of education is going to be available for all students. Within the system, we do have the ca-pability of working with students with high capabil-ities."

Historic house is transformed

Farm.

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of the house is painted an olive green, with black trim and wood lattice work.

"In the East, they (homeowners) had color," Gleason said, because people in that region of the country tended to be wealther than midwesterners.

"In many the country tended to be wealther than midwesterners." In the country tended to be wealther than midwesterners.

"In the country tended to the petitione House was chosen from a collection of historic colors made by a modern paint company.

"After adding the Petitione House to the historic register, Farmington Hills zoned the house residential with an office use. "The city was helpful waiving commercial building codes in order to conform on historic site," Gleason said. "Everyone tried very hard to help us."

A MODERN porch and garage were taken away.

Wood railings, lattice work and new cement walk-ways were all added, Gleanon zaid. A brick chimney added in the late 1800s spills a second-floor dormer window.

Achieving an inside "contiguous, flow-through" feeling was most important to the Glesson. Soft subdued colors were picked to give the house a "quiet homelike feeling."

Gleason looked through books on historic fabrics and paints to pick the proper decor. The 12-inch plank, rough-bewn floors have been covered with a soft green canepte. The walls are papered with traditional Victorian patterns. Wallpaper borders have been used to elevate or reduce the sense of belight in each particular room.

The old kitchen has been converted into a computer room. An antique etching of George Washington dominates the room. The picture came from a family collection.

The basement is a traditional Michigan basement, Gleason explained, with an outside cellar foor, a low celling and a dirt floor. The original fieldstone foundation remains intact, although a concrete floor was poured several years ago by the Solars.

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