



# Public Service

Northern New Jersey Mensa



**Mensa**  
The High IQ Society



# Our Chapter

Northern New Jersey Mensa



# What is the purpose of Mensa?

- From the Constitution of Mensa, there are three main purposes of Mensa:

1

Identify and foster human intelligence for the benefit of humanity.

2

Encourage research in the nature, characteristics, and uses of intelligence.

3

Provide a stimulating intellectual and social environment for members.



## Existential Depression

A common problem among the gifted

- We see the difference between what should be and what is.
- We are distressed by injustice, dysfunction, and hypocrisy but also by ordinary people's ignorance and apathy.
- Normal people do not share our vision, which makes many of us feel perpetually anxious and lonely.
- But once we join Mensa, we are no longer alone!



# Many people fear and loathe smart people

How can we earn admiration and respect?



By having fun?





# NORTHERN NEW JERSEY CHAPTER: 2024 PLAN

Overarching goals\*:

- **Enhanced value for members**
- **Increasing membership**
- **Healthy finances**

\*Metrics:

- Per independent instrument
- Goal: +5% (+30), stretch +100
- Goal: Positive balance

Category (pillar):

①

**Recruit new members (never before in Mensa)**

②

**Engage Mensans (current or lapsed members)**

③

**Enhance our public profile**

④

**Maintain our diamond status**

Goals: (primary objectives)

Reach out to high-IQ individuals who have never been in Mensa

Plan events

Create a communication team & develop a communication platform

Develop a 2024 financial plan

Reach out to educational institutions or professional societies who have contact with high-IQ people

Communicate with the membership

Serve the gifted youth

Keep developing activities that bring points

Test more candidates

Engage volunteers/build committee structure

Engage in other volunteer activities

Coordinate the annual Mensa Scholarship

Conduct a good 2024 election process





# Serving Gifted Youth

We got off to a great start in November 2023 with IGNYTE, the first-ever regional gathering for Young Mensans!







# Gifted Curriculum

An important new initiative!

- New Jersey state law now requires local school districts to provide services to the gifted.
- There are nearly 600 school districts, and they all have other priorities.
- We could design the curriculum that the local school districts could implement





# Educating the Gifted

By creating a better curriculum for all

- Gifted children need to learn the same things as everyone else, they just learn them faster.
- We can improve education for everyone by making the curriculum better, more transparent, and more available to all.
- Any child should be allowed to advance as fast as he or she can.

# Gifted children learn fast

They often finish early, and then they get bored

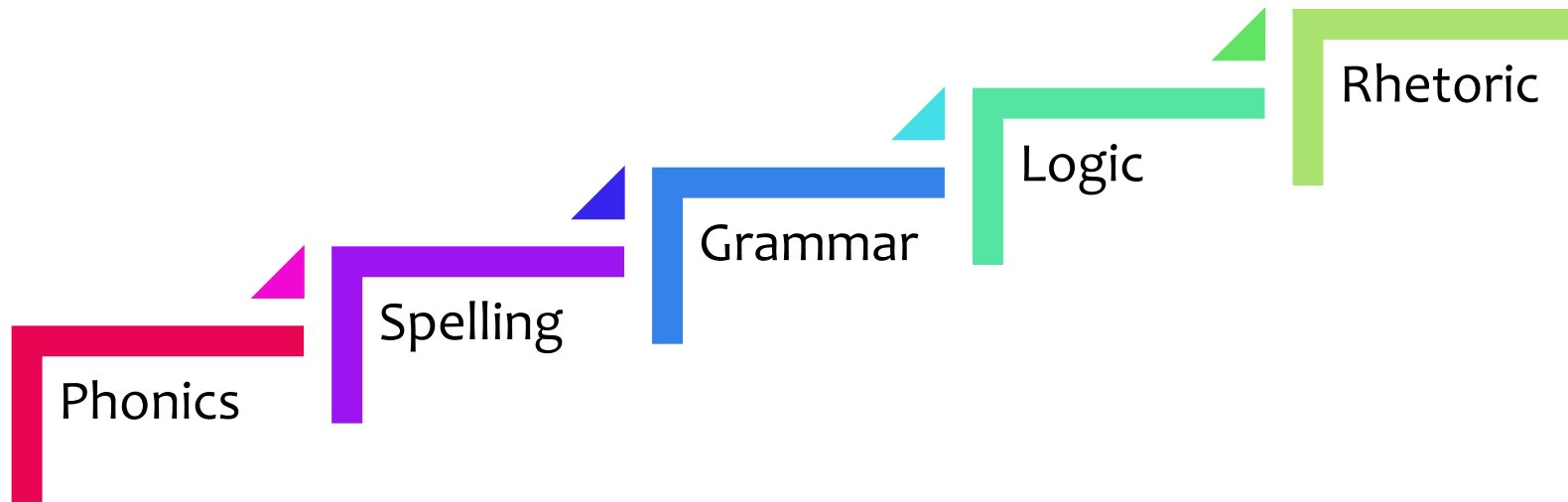


- In a typical classroom, they learn less than they could
- Since the pace is slow, they fail to develop good study habits, which leads to underachievement
- Gifted children have an unmet need to socialize (and compete) with other gifted people.



# Clear standards, available materials, progress checks

- Make the curriculum clear, and recommend useful materials, with problem sets with answers, so students or their parents or a tutor can grade homework if the student goes ahead of the class.
- Create valid examinations that evaluate whether a child has mastered one level and is ready for the next. These tests could also guide remedial education.
- Publish the curriculum and allow any child (“gifted” or otherwise) to go as far ahead as he or she likes.
- Create opportunities for distance learning (through state and community colleges) for high school students.



# Other Possible Projects

Blue sky thinking



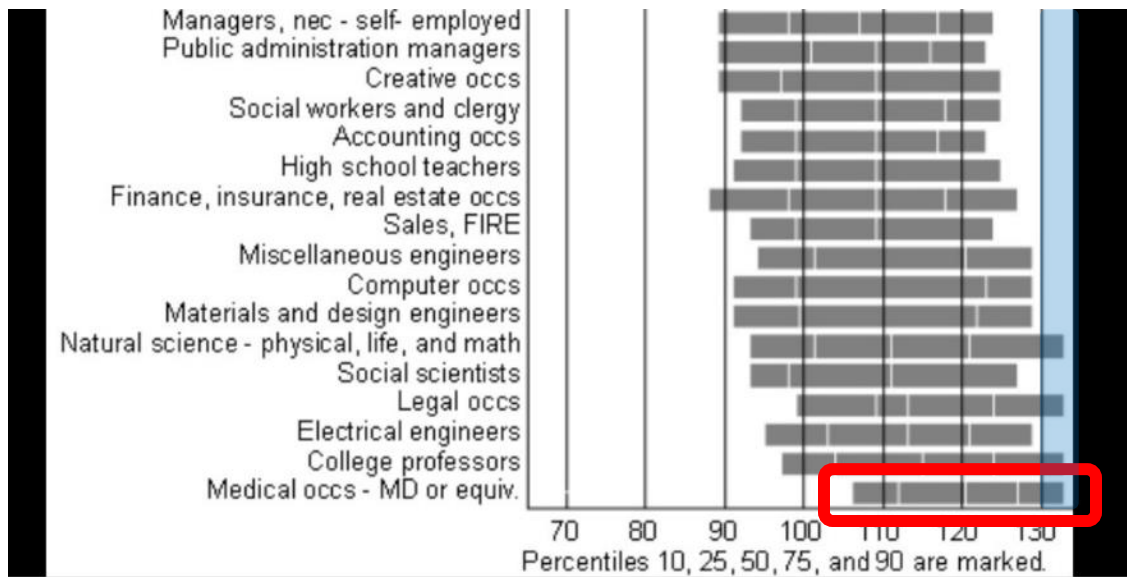
- Mensa can publish electronic or print-on-demand editions of important historical books, in the source language as well as English translation
- This would be a great public service, making great literature available to a larger audience, and it would give humanities scholars the opportunity to publish important commentaries

# Great Books

Help humanities scholars publish, not perish!

# Improving medical education and medical practice

Most practicing physicians do not qualify for Mensa.



- Mensa members include many physicians as well as people with advanced degrees in health-related disciplines, such as immunology, neuroscience, healthcare economics, law, etc. But Mensa members are also people who sometimes need healthcare.
- Existing guidelines for medical practice have often been shaped by shortsightedness within a given profession (e.g., complete disregard of nutrition and dietetics for managing diseases due to diet) and industry influence.
- Mensans can develop better guidelines for managing common and serious conditions.
- Mensans can make recommendations to state medical boards and publish continuing medical education materials.



- Sending young children outdoors for an hour or two every day helps to prevent nearsightedness.
- NNJ Mensa can develop a report on the evidence about how to prevent myopia, to support recommendations for school boards, physicians, and parents.



**Prevent near-sightedness**

Send children outside

# We can do medical research

There is a serious lack of practical research on low-tech interventions that are already available



## A literature search turned up the following facts:

- Fibromyalgia is a form of severe widespread chronic pain that occurs mainly in women and is hard to relieve.
- Patients with fibromyalgia tend to have an overly straight neck (military neck) or even a forward-curving neck.
- This bad neck posture can impair drainage of fluid from inside the skull.
- The bad posture can be corrected through physical therapy.

## But nobody has done the study that pulls all this together:

- Recruit fibromyalgia patients and controls and x-ray their necks.
- Fix bad posture.
- See if the fibromyalgia patients get better.



- Stockholm, Sweden, and Minneapolis, Minnesota, are turning their organic waste (dead trees, yard waste) into charcoal (biochar)
- Biochar can be used as a fuel. But if added to soil, it can sequester carbon for 1,000+ years.
- The biochar improves the quality of the soil, improving crop yields, reducing flooding, improving recharge of groundwater, purifying runoff, etc. All positives!
- The heat from the pyrolysis process is used to heat steam loops in cities, but it could also heat greenhouses.



## Environmental projects

Improve our state, save our planet

# Better bicycle infrastructure is badly needed

Why can't we have nice things?

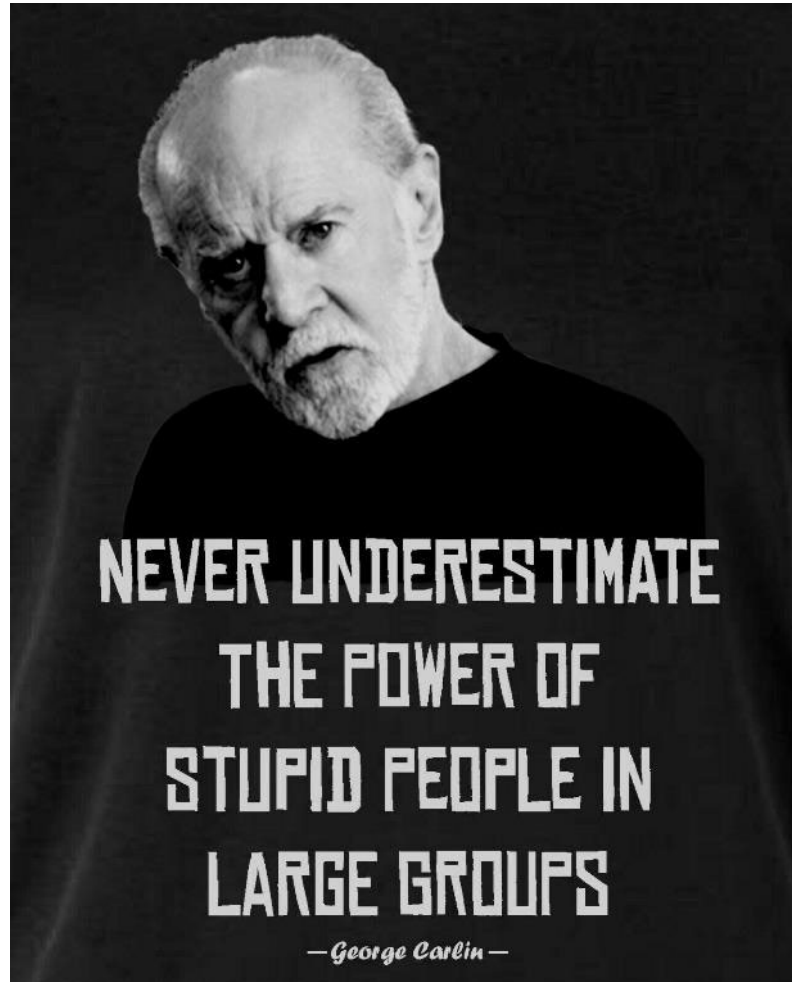
**The Dutch design their intersections to be safe for all users.**



- We have an obesity epidemic at the same time that we have overconsumption of motor fuels.
- We can solve both problems at once by making it safe for people to ride their bicycles.
- The state and county governments are currently following federal guidelines, which do not provide adequate facilities for bicycles
- Mensans could solve this problem by mapping out better bicycle routes (bicycle superhighways) and bicycle lanes, as well as other pedestrian and bicycle facilities.



Let's see what we can do!



Just think about what a large group of smart people could accomplish!