

# ADVANCED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS (AAP) [formerly GT]

## CONTINUUM OF SERVICES

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) offers a continuum of advanced academic services for all students in grades K-8. Learning experiences are designed to develop higher-level thinking through enrichment, acceleration, and extension of the Program of Studies. Teachers, administrators, and Advanced Academic Resource Teachers (AARTs) work together to provide the following Levels of Service:

- **Critical and Creative Thinking Strategies, Grades K-6 (Level I)**  
The Advanced Academic Resource Teacher and classroom teachers teach nine higher order thinking strategies across all subject areas and grade levels.
- **Differentiated Lessons in Areas of Academic Strength, Grades K-6 (Level II)**  
The Advanced Academic Resource Teacher collaborates with classroom teachers to provide additional challenges and resources within the general education program. The Young Scholars Model included in this level is designed to find and nurture advanced academic potential in students from historically underrepresented populations.
- **Part-Time Advanced Academic Program, Grades 3-6 (Level III)**  
Students identified by a local school screening committee for advanced academic services (Level III) are challenged through models and strategies designed to extend and enrich the POS in the four core subject areas.
- **Full-Time Advanced Academic Placement, Grades 3-8 (Level IV)**  
Students found eligible for placement in a full-time Advanced Academic Program (Level IV) through a central selection process receive a highly challenging instructional program in the four core subject areas.
- **IBMYP: Selected Schools, Grades 6-10**  
The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program is designed for students ages 11-16. The program helps students develop the knowledge, understanding, attitudes, and skills necessary to participate actively and responsibly in a changing world.
- **Honors, Grades 7-8**  
Students who demonstrate high achievement in one or more areas of academic strength may participate in honors courses in any of the four core academic subject areas.

## SCREENING

Multiple criteria are reviewed to determine eligibility for all FCPS Advanced Academic Programs. Formal identification begins with Level III services. The local school AAP committee determines student eligibility for school-based services. The countywide AAP Central Selection Committee determines eligibility for full-time AAP (Level IV) placement.

## TESTING

Each fall all FCPS second grade students, as well as students in third through seventh grades who do not have ability test scores, are administered the Cognitive Abilities Test and/or the Naglieri Nonverbal Test. A second grade screening pool is established using these test results. Students in the second grade pool are automatically screened for full-time AAP (Level IV) placement. Parents/guardians may exercise their one-time retest option during the September-October testing cycle.

## REFERRALS for FULL-TIME ADVANCED ACADEMIC PLACEMENT LEVEL IV (Grades 2-7)

Parents/guardians of students not in the second grade screening pool may initiate the full-time AAP (Level IV) screening process by completing and submitting an **AAP Level IV Referral Form to the local school principal no later than February 5, 2010**. No late referrals will be accepted. Second graders **not** in the pool and **all** third through seventh graders are screened only by referral. Forms are available on the AAP website and in the *Parent Information Packet* available at the local school.