

ADVANCED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS:

Connections for Student Success



McNair Elementary School
Claire Anton
Advanced Academic Resource Teacher
ceanton@fcps.edu

What educators and psychologists recognize as giftedness...is really potential giftedness which denotes promise rather than fulfillment... probabilities rather than certainties....

Much (depends) on (the) match between a child's talents and the kinds of nurturance provided.



Philosophy of FCPS Advanced Academic Programs

Children who have been identified for advanced academic services have the potential to achieve high levels of accomplishment, and this potential needs to be recognized and addressed.

In order to meet their needs and develop their abilities, these high ability learners require a differentiated curriculum that provides advanced learning opportunities.



Continuum of Advanced Academic Services

Elementary School	Middle School	High School
Young Scholars All Levels K-12		
Critical and Creative Thinking Strategies Grades K-6 Level I	IBMYP Selected Schools Grades 6-10	
Differentiated Lessons in Areas of Academic Strength Grades K-6 Level II	Honors Courses in Areas of Academic Strength / Interest Grades 7-8	Honors Courses Advanced Placement International Baccalaureate Dual Enrollment Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology
Part-Time Advanced Academic Program Grades 3-6 Level III		
Full-Time Advanced Academic Program Grades 3-8 Level IV		



Adapted from the *Integrated Continuum of Special Services* by Sally Reis and *Levels of Service* by Donald Treffinger.

Critical and Creative Thinking Strategies

Grades K-6

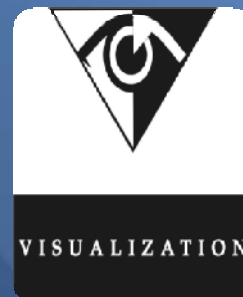
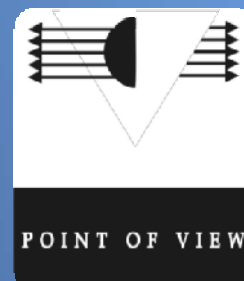
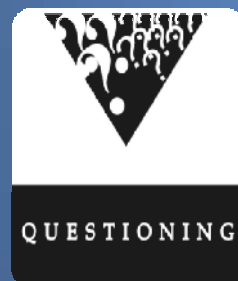
Level I Services

All children learn to think, reason, and problem-solve through nine strategies that challenge students to use and apply knowledge in new and different ways.

Lessons that develop critical and creative thinking skills are used by teachers with all students in K-6 classrooms.



Critical and Creative Thinking Strategies



Local Advanced Academic Programs Screening for School-Based Services (Levels II-III)

- All students are evaluated for Advanced Academic Programs school-based services using multiple sources of information.
- Local school Advanced Academic Programs screening committee determines eligibility for school-based services (Level II – K-6; Level III - Grades 3-6)
- Parents/guardians may initiate a referral



Differentiated Lessons in Areas of Academic Strength

*Grades K-6
Level II*

Differentiated instruction is provided through more challenging content, assignments, resources, and flexible groupings in one or more areas of academic strength. Advanced Academic Resource Teachers plan, collaborate, and share ideas and resources with classroom teachers and other specialists.

This level of service is within the student's own classroom.



Part-Time Advanced Academic Program

*Grades 3-6
Level III*

Students work directly with the Advanced Academic Resource Teacher to receive enrichment and extensions to curriculum and instruction. The Advanced Academic Resource Teacher plans and collaborates with the classroom teachers and other teachers who work with the students e.g., ESOL and special education.

Direct services may take the form of the AART co-teaching a with the classroom teacher with flexible instructional groups within the classroom or pull-out groups.



Young Scholars – A Model for Success

All Levels K-12

Committed Professionals

- Leadership of School Principals
- Collaboration among Teachers and Specialists

Find/Identify

- Observations/Conversations
- Performance Assessments
- Portfolios
- Nonverbal Ability Tests
- Standard Achievement Tests



Nurture, Guide, and Support

- Cluster Young Scholars
- Provide Level of GT Service
- Challenge through Curriculum and Flexible Instructional Groupings
- Support on Multiple Levels

Essential Elements

- Summer school, After School, and/or Intersession Programs
- Ongoing Professional Development for Teachers
- Culturally Responsive Teaching/Differentiation
- Differentiated Curriculum and Instruction for Advanced Learners
- Parent/Guardian Involvement and Support



Full-Time Advanced Academic Program

Grades 3-6

Level IV

The full-time advanced academic program is differentiated in depth, breadth, and pace of instruction. It provides an appropriate level of challenge for highly gifted learners with a strong emphasis on critical and creative thinking, and problem-solving.

The mathematics curriculum is accelerated by one grade level and readings and resources that are used in other subject areas are also presented at advanced levels. Students have opportunities for ongoing opportunities for reflection and self-assessment.



This program is fully contained within a level IV classroom.

Information Considered in Placement Decisions for Part-Time and Full-Time Advanced Academic Programs

- Ability test scores
 - Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT)
 - Cognitive Ability Test (CogAT)
- Achievement Test Scores
 - Standards of Learning (SOL) scores
- Gifted Behavior Rating Scale (GBRS)
- Progress Reports
- Additional Information
 - record of previous Advanced Academic services received
 - work samples, certificates, and/or awards (8 ½ x 11)
 - Parent Questionnaire (for level IV referrals)



Local School Screening for Full-Time Advanced Academic Placement

Grade 2

- ❑ Screening pool is established using the Naglieri Nonverbal Abilities Test (NNAT) from 1st grade and the Cognitive Ability Test (CogAT) from 2nd grade.
- ❑ Parents of students in the second grade screening pool receive a letter notifying them that their child will be screened for the full-time advanced academic program. Parents may decline screening.

Grades 2– 6

- ❑ Parents may submit full-time advanced academic program referrals for 2nd grade students not in the pool, and students in grades 3-7.
- ❑ Screening file is prepared by the local school Advanced Academic Programs screening committee and submitted to central selection committee.
- ❑ Eligibility decisions made by the central selection committee, and reviewed by an oversight committee.
- ❑ Parent/guardian(s) are notified by mail regarding eligibility.



Testing Timeline 2011-2012

- ❖ All 1st/2nd grade students, and students in grades 3-7 who are missing ability test scores, are tested during the fall testing cycle.
 - *First graders will take the NNAT in November 2011*
 - *Second graders will take the CogAT in October 2011*
- ❖ Spring testing is only for FCPS students enrolled after the fall testing cycle and referred for advanced academic services.
- ❖ A parent/guardian may seek private testing through a licensed psychologist or through GMU. Call 703-933-4200.



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