



The Terragram



Information for Terraset Parents

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Principal's Message
September 23, 2008



GIFTED AND TALENTED (GT) PROGRAMS—LEVELS OF SERVICE

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) offers a continuum of gifted 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 GT resource teachers work together to provide the following Levels of Service:

- **Level I GT services** provide lessons in critical and creative thinking skills for all FCPS students in grades K-6.
- **Level II GT services** include differentiated instruction at an advanced level for many FCPS students through collaboration between the classroom teacher and the GT resource teacher. The Young Scholars Model included in this level is designed to find and nurture gifted potential in students from historically underrepresented populations through more challenging curriculum and instruction. Middle school students who take one or two Honors classes are receiving Level II services.
- **Level III GT services** for identified students include the GT school-based program in grades 3-6; in middle school, students take three Honors classes.
- **Level IV services** are for those students found eligible for the full-time GT center program in

grades 3-8 or taking full Honors at the middle school.

SCREENING: Multiple criteria are reviewed to determine eligibility for all FCPS gifted services. Formal identification begins with Level III services. The local school GT committee determines student eligibility for school-based GT services. The countywide GT Central Selection Committee determines eligibility for GT center placement.

TESTING: Each fall all FCPS second grade students, as well as students in third through seventh grade who are missing an ability test score, are administered the Cognitive Ability Test and/or the Naglieri Nonverbal Test. A second grade GT center screening pool is established using these test results. Students in the second grade pool are automatically screened for GT center placement. Parents/guardians may exercise their one-time retest option during the September/October testing cycle.



REFERRAL: Parents/guardians of students not in the second grade screening pool may initiate the GT center screening process by completing and submitting a **Gifted and Talented GT Center Referral form to the local school principal no later than February 6, 2009.** 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 GT web site and in the *Parent Information Packet* available at the local school.

2008 PARENT INFORMATION NIGHTS

- **October 2** McLean High School 1633 Davidson Rd. McLean, VA 22101
- **October 15** Oakton High School 2900 Sutton Rd., Vienna, VA 22181
- **October 22** Annandale High School 4700 Medford Dr., Annandale, VA 22003

Meetings will be held in the auditorium from 7:30 to 9 p.m. and are open to the public; no registration is required. Directions are available at www.mapquest.com.

For additional information contact: Local FCPS elementary or middle school GT Programs at Lacey Center 703-846-8670 GT web site: <http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/gt>

PTA CORNER

The PTA would like to say "Thank you" and "Welcome" to all of you that participated in our **membership drive**. If you have not submitted your PTA membership or Volunteer Form, please take a minute to fill it out and return it to the School.

Our first "**Tigers on the Town**" event is happening this Thursday 5-7pm. at McDonald's on the corner of Roger Bacon Dr. and Wiehle Ave. Please drive through or dine in; a portion of all proceeds during this event will be donated back to the school. The children love seeing their friends and teachers outside of the school setting, so let's see how many Tigers it takes to fill McDonald's!



Please take a moment to look over your **Innisbrook** orders. Think about the upcoming holidays and consider making Innisbrook your source for gift giving. This is a very important Fundraiser for Terraset, and the money raised is used to support

GRACE art, Math Superstars, field trips, assemblies and much, much more.

WHY BUY A SCHOOL LUNCH?

- Food is prepared and served under safe and sanitary conditions
- Lunches reflect the Dietary Guidelines for Americans which recommend no more than 30 percent calories from fat, 10 percent calories from saturated fats, and limited trans fats, sodium and sugar.
- Lunches provide one-third of the Recommended Dietary Allowances of protein, vitamin A, vitamin C, iron, calcium, and calories
- Age appropriate portions based on established federal lunch patterns
- Several choices, salad lunches and milk available daily
- Costs less than bringing an equally nutritious lunch from home

Compare the costs of a lunch brought from home with school lunch prices and you will see that the school lunch is a bargain.

CALENDAR

September

25 5:00-7:00 pm - Mc Teacher's Night at Wiehle Ave. McDonald's

October

1 Vision & Hearing screening for kindergarteners, 3rd graders and new students