

FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAMS



K-8 GIFTED and TALENTED PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

The instructional programs for gifted and talented (GT) students provide differentiated instruction to meet student educational needs. A continuum of gifted services is offered in grades K-8. Learning experiences are designed to develop higher-level thinking through enrichment, acceleration, and extensions of the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Program of Studies.

School-Based Services in the Primary Grades

Response Lessons connected to the FCPS Program of Studies are provided in critical and creative thinking to all students. Those students who exhibit characteristics of emerging giftedness are considered for GT differentiated services within the classroom. These services are specifically planned for advanced learners to provide more challenging content, assignments, resources, and/or instructional grouping within the classroom.

School-Based Services in the Upper Grades

GT school-based services for the upper grades are delivered through a collaborative model that supports a continuum of gifted services. The model is designed to strengthen direct services for gifted learners and to enhance the quality of instruction offered to all students. The gifted and talented specialists collaborate with classroom teachers to design differentiated lessons that challenge students to learn at a faster rate, think on a higher level, and study sophisticated and complex content through extensions of the FCPS Program of Studies.

Grades 7-8 School-Based Program

The 7-8 school-based program offers differentiated instruction designed to challenge middle school learners with advanced abilities. Honors courses offer students who demonstrate previous high achievement in specific areas of academic strength the opportunity to experience the Extended Program of Studies at greater levels of depth and complexity.

Grades 3 – 8 GT Center Program

The full-time GT center program offers eligible students a challenging academic program designed to meet the needs of highly gifted students. Curriculum differentiation in the depth, breadth, and pace of instruction is matched to students' needs in each content area. Students work with academic peers in core subject areas. They also participate with the entire student body in activities such as student government, physical education, band and strings, and other electives. Approximately 6-8 percent of third through eighth grade students in FCPS attend the GT center program.

The Gifted Behaviors Rating Scale (GBRS), ability and achievement test data, student progress reports, and other academic information are used to determine appropriate GT services. The local school GT committee determines student eligibility for school-based GT services. Parents/guardians may refer students for GT center placement by completing and submitting a *Gifted and Talented GT Center Referral Form* by the February deadline. The countywide central selection committee reviews candidates for GT center placement and makes eligibility decisions.

For additional information:

The GT Program Office is located at Lacey Center, 703-846-8670

The GT website: <http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/gt/>

