# Advanced Academic Programs (AAP)

Overview of Available Elementary Services

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Services Available for Grades K-6





### **Grounding Activity**

- What were your past experiences with gifted education?
  - What was the definition of gifted (or advanced academics or Talented and Gifted)?
  - How were services delivered?
  - What was the underlying philosophy of gifted education?
- What is the same and what is different about the experiences you shared?



#### **Sessions Outcomes**

- Understand Fairfax County Public Schools' philosophy on Advanced Academic Programs
- Understand how an elementary school student's needs for advanced learning are met through a variety of services in the continuum
- Understand how different services look at Lemon Road
- Next steps screening, questions and more!



### Section 1 FCPS AAP programs goals and beliefs



### Fairfax County Schools (FCPS) Beliefs

- All students deserve an excellent education.
- Students learn best when educators, parents, and students work together.
- High expectations lead to high performance.
- All students need opportunities to use strengths and pursue interests.



### Virginia Department of Education 'Gifted' Definition

"Gifted students means those students...

who demonstrate high levels of accomplishment or who show the potential for higher levels of accomplishment when compared to others of the same age, experience, or environment."



# Virginia Department of Education Gifted Regulation

#### All Virginia school divisions must:

- identify gifted students, and
- provide instructional services to meet their needs.



### Two Goals of the Advanced Academic Programs

FCPS AAP strives to develop the talents of all students and provide challenge through:

- Talent development
- Differentiation to meet the needs of advanced learners.



# Section 2 AAP Levels of Service (more than just full-time, level IV!)

part 1: Programs K-12 part 2: Thinking Ahead - Middle and High School



### **AAP Continuum of Services**

AAP offers a continuum of services to challenge and engage all students K-12. Our goals are:

- Provide deeper learning and talent development opportunities to all students
- Identify and build upon student strengths and abilities
- Provide multiple entry points to meet diverse student needs through the continuum of services

We believe talent can be nurtured and developed in all students. AAP services for a student may change over time.



#### **Advanced Academic Programs Overview**

#### Young Scholars Model - All K-12 Students

Elementary School: K-6	Middle School	High School	
Access to Rigor (Level I)	IB Middle Years Program – Grades 6 -10 (selected schools)		
Subject Specific Advanced	Honors Courses in areas of	Honors Courses	
Differentiation (Level II)	Academic Strength/Interest Grades 7-8	<ul> <li>Advanced Placement (AP)</li> </ul>	
Part-Time Services (Level III) Grades 3-6	Grades 7 c	International Baccalaureate (IB)	
Crades o o		Dual Enrollment Courses	
Full-Time Services - Grades 3-8 (Level IV)		Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology	

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



#### Advanced Academic Programs Grades K-12

### Young Scholars Model

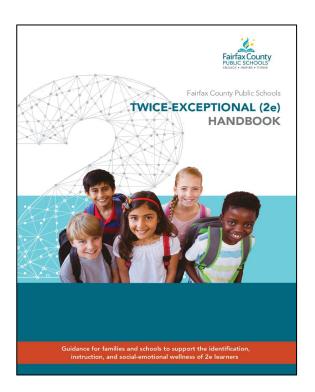
The FCPS Young Scholars Model seeks to identify and affirm, from an early age, students with high academic potential from groups historically underrepresented in advanced academic programming.

The goal of the model is to eliminate barriers for Young Scholars' access to and success in advanced academic opportunities in elementary, middle, and high school.



#### Advanced Academic Programs

Twice-Exceptional (2e) Students



Twice-exceptional (2e) students have exceptional abilities and exceptional learning challenges.

FCPS 2e Handbook: Go to www.fcps.edu and search **2e** 



#### MIDDLE SCHOOL

Grades 7-8

Honors Courses in areas of academic strength or interest

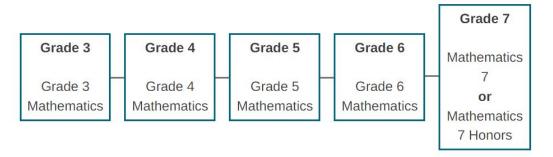
Honors classes provide opportunities for students who want to be challenged in one or more subjects:

- English
- Science
- Social Studies
- Mathematics

Students may choose to enroll in 1, 2, 3, or 4 Honors classes.

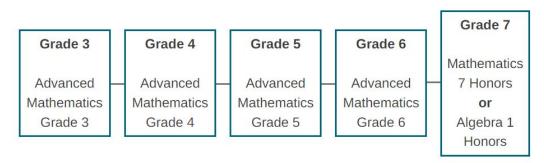


#### **Standard Course Sequence**



#### **Advanced Mathematics Course Sequence**

Approximately 30% of elementary mathematics students follow this sequence.





#### **HIGH SCHOOL**

#### Advanced Academic Programs

In high school, students may select advanced courses to meet their advanced academic needs. Advanced academic opportunities include:

- Honors courses
- Advanced Placement (AP) courses (McLean HS)
- International Baccalaureate (IB) courses (Marshall HS)
- Dual Enrollment (DE) courses

There is a separate application process for Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.



- 1. Is subjectivity overly celebrated in the arts but unfairly condemned in history? Discuss with reference to the arts and history.
- 2. How can we reconcile the opposing demands for specialization and generalization in the production of knowledge? Discuss with reference to mathematics and one other area of knowledge.
- 3. Nothing is more exciting than fresh ideas, so why are areas of knowledge often so slow to adopt them? Discuss with reference to the human sciences and one other area of knowledge.
- 4. Do we underestimate the challenges of taking knowledge out of its original context and transferring it to a different context? Discuss with reference to two areas of knowledge.
- 5. Do we need custodians of knowledge? Discuss with reference to two areas of knowledge.
- 6. Are we too quick to assume that the most recent evidence is inevitably the strongest? Discuss with reference to the natural sciences and one other area of knowledge.



# **Advanced Academic Programs AAP ELEMENTARY SERVICES**

Grades K-6



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Full-Time Services - Grades 3	8 (Level IV)	Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology	

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Grades K-6

AAP
Access to Rigor:
Level I

Access for all students

All students have opportunities to think critically, reason, and problem-solve.

- Critical and creative thinking strategies are used in lessons
- Teachers use advanced academic curriculum each quarter



Grades K-6

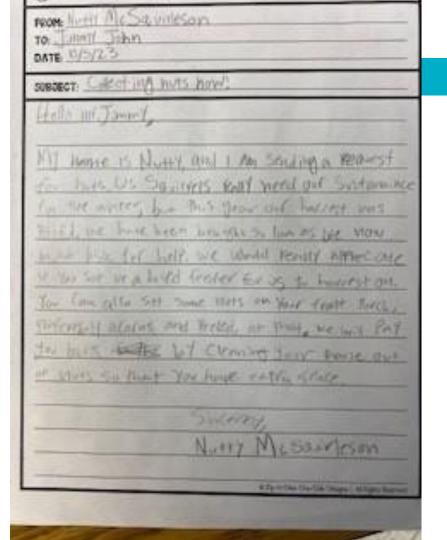
AAP **Access to Rigor:** Level I

Critical and **Creative Thinking Strategies** 

#### Critical and Creative Thinking Strategies Fairfax County PUBLIC School Thinking Strategies







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Point of View



Concept-based learning is "authentic learning, deeper learning, big ideas and skills that transfer across contexts and disciplines. It's not simply knowing something, but what you do with that knowledge."

FCPS - teaching through concepts

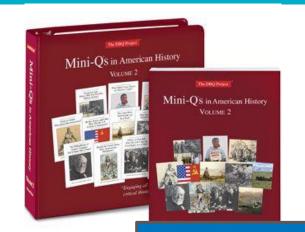
# Relationships \* are one thing connected to another thing (ex: you & Lemon Road) \* things that go together ~ mutual need (Son/stepmom) (friende + friend \* all things can be related (weather, planets, people)



Grades K-6

AAP
Access to Rigor:
Level I

AAP Curricular Resources



Exploring Number Games

Number



a life science unit for high-ability learners in kindergarten and first grade

Survive and



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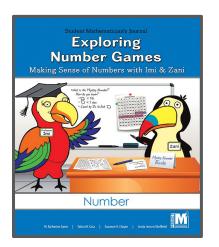


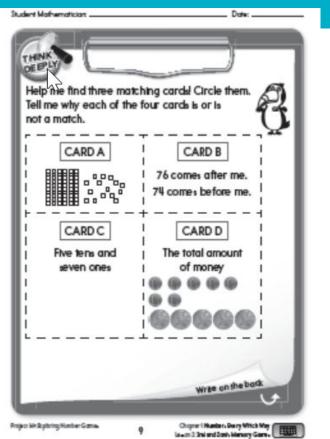
Grades K-6

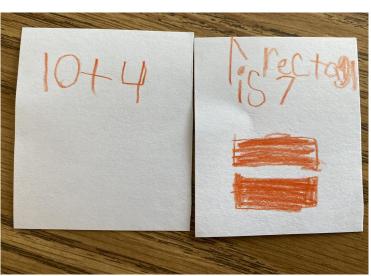
AAP Subject Specific Advanced Differentiation: Level II Some students are strong in one or more specific subject areas. Classroom teachers may adjust instruction for students in these areas by:

- Providing different assignments and resources in those subjects
- Grouping students by their strengths, interests, and readiness









Project M2 and M3



10/10	10/11	10/12	10/13	10/14
No School	PBL Day	PBL Day	PBL Day	Field Trip to Museum of Natural History
10/17	10/18	10/19	10/20	10/21
PBL Day	Presenting Your Exhibit Design	Presenting Your Exhibit Design	Review	Horizon Assessment 905739

#### Extensions

- <u>Ecology Scramble</u> Vanderbilt unit, lesson 5 interactions in literature and ecology
- Physical and animal adaptations lesson 10
- Socratic Seminar Instinct vs. learned behavior



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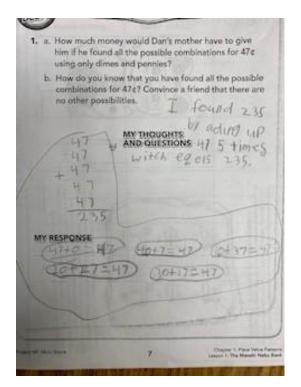
Grades 3-6

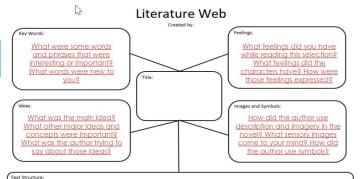
# AAP Part-Time Services:

Some students have advanced academic abilities in multiple subject areas. They need AAP part-time services.

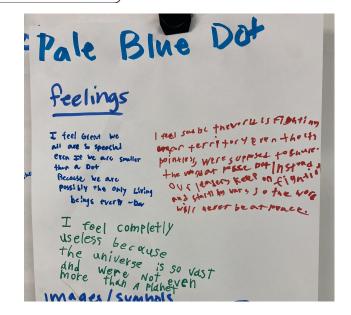
AARTs and classroom teachers provide opportunities to work with a cluster group of students with similar academic needs in Language Arts, science, social studies, and/or mathematics.







What type of writing was this? What literary style elements did the author use? How did the structure of the writing contribute to the meaning of the novel?





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Grades 3-6

# AAP Full-Time Services:

**Level IV** 

Some advanced learners need a full-time advanced academic program, including differentiated instruction in all 4 content areas and access to a peer group with similar academic needs.

#### Students eligible for full-time AAP services receive:

- Advanced Language Arts, mathematics, science, and social studies curriculum, and
- Curriculum that is differentiated through acceleration, depth, and complexity of content.



### Section 3

I think that \_\_\_\_\_service would provide the right level of challenge for my child. How do I enroll them?

AAP referrals, screening and eligibility



Grades 3-6

# AAP Part-Time Services:

Parents, guardians, and teachers may refer a child for AAP Part-Time services.

- Submit a Level II/III referral form to the AART.
- Parents/Guardians will be notified after 30 business days regarding eligibility for Level III.
- In May, all students are considered for school based services for the next school year.

AAP part-time services continue through Grade 6. Students in level II are re-evaluated every year. Students eligible for level III services continue through 6th grade.



Grades 3-6

# AAP Full-Time Services:

Parents, guardians, and teachers may refer a child to be screened for AAP full-time services.

- Spring Screening referral and optional materials are due by December 15.
- Parents/Guardians will be notified according to the published Testing and Identification Timeline.
- Parent meeting to review detailed information about level IV referrals - Principal's Coffee, November 10, 8:30 am

AAP full-time services continue through Grade 8. Students do not need to be evaluated each year.



Grades K-6

### **Universal Ability Testing**

# What part does ability testing play in the screening process?

- Best practices in matching students to AAP services includes looking at the whole student.
- Ability testing is one of several data points considered in student portfolios.
- Ability testing is not weighted more than other items in student portfolios.
- There is not a "passing score" for an ability test.

Universal testing means that all students take an ability test. Universal screening test is just one part of a holistic approach to matching students to available AAP services in FCPS.



Grades K-6

**Ability Testing** 

# FCPS offers two ability tests to all students (universal screener):

- Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT) in Grade 1
- Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) in Grade 2\*\*

#### One-time Retest Option

- Parents/Guardians may request the one-time retest of either the NNAT of CogAT by contacting the school testing coordinator.
  - Deadlines are published every year in the News You Choose



### Who to Contact

#### **Elementary Schools:**

- Avery Straw
   Advanced Academic Resource
   Teacher (AART)
   <u>akstraw@fcps.edu</u>
- Angela Ulsh
   Assistant Principal/School
   Testing Coordinator

Sign up for a Meeting!

https://tinyurl.com/strawmeet ings23

#### AAP Office:

- 571-423-4740
- AAP@fcps.edu