

The 's of Advanced Academics GT in BCPS Elementary Schools

What do you need to know about how Advanced Academics GT works in elementary schools?

There are curricula, programs, and services in mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA) designed for advanced and high potential learners in grades K-5. Throughout elementary school, teachers will look for demonstrations of advanced learning capabilities. They look at your child's work, talk with other teachers, and listen to the students and their parents or guardians. Students can be referred by their teachers, parents/guardians, or through a self-referral.

Guiding documents for gifted and talented education in Maryland and Baltimore County:

Maryland law and regulations and BCPS policies and rules lay out what is required for gifted and talented education.

What Maryland law says about GT education:

<http://marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Documents/Gifted-Talented/AnnotatedCodeGiftedTalented.pdf>

What Maryland regulations say about GT education:

http://marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Documents/Gifted-Talented/COMAR_13A0407_GT_Education.pdf

What the Maryland Every Student Succeeds Act says about GT education:

<http://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/DAPI/ESSA/index.aspx>

What BCPS Policy 6401 says about GT education:

https://www.bcps.org/system/policies_rules/policies/6000Series/POL6401.pdf

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https://www.bcps.org/system/policies_rules/rules/6000Series/RULE6401.pdf

Questions ???

Contact the Office of Advanced Academics at 443-809-4330 or <https://tinyurl.com/bcps-gt>

or

The BCPS Citizens Advisory Committee for Gifted and Talented Education (GT CAC) at bcpsgteac@gmail.com



How are decisions made?



Under current BCPS Rule 6401, all students in each elementary school must be reviewed through a process called universal screening. This happens during 3rd and 5th grade and is usually completed by mid-April. Universal screening is done by a school's Review and Referral Team, which may include teachers, counselors, administrators, and an Advanced Academics GT facilitator. This team looks at a variety of things like student grades, assessments, and learning characteristics to figure out the best placement for the student to continue to grow and be challenged. The team should notify you of their placement recommendations at the end of the year.

Universal screening in Grade 3 is used to determine a child's initial placement into the accelerated reading group and Advanced 4 Mathematics. Universal screening in grade 5 determines whether students are recommended for AA GT classes in Math, ELA, Social Studies, and Science in middle school.

Outside of the universal screening process, at any point during elementary school, the parent, guardian, or student can submit a written request to the principal to request the school's Review and Referral Team assess the student for potential acceleration in either a specific subject or for an entire grade if there is a belief that more challenge is needed.

For more detailed information about this, see the BCPS Office of Advanced Academics website: <https://tinyurl.com/bcps-gt>

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By subject . . .



ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)

In ELA classrooms, different students should be provided with different paths to learning so children within the same class can acquire content, process information, and make sense of concepts in different ways and at different speeds. This means your child could be in a class with students at different levels, or, could possibly be in a class with students around the same level. Different schools do it differently, depending on what works best for that school.

Each classroom has small, flexible, teacher-facilitated instructional groups: the on-grade level with support group, the enrichment group for those on grade level, and the acceleration group for those working above grade level. These groups allow for adjustments in the level, depth, and pacing of the curriculum. If you don't know what group your child is in, you may always ask your child's teacher.

Students will be grouped based on informal and formal assessments the teacher will be giving throughout the units being taught. Assessments should be used to place students into an initial group, but also to move them in and out of groups as the need arises. The ability to flexibly and quickly shift pathways will reflect the child's rate of learning and allow the child to be grouped with his or her intellectual peers.



SOCIAL STUDIES

All students in elementary school are taught Social Studies concepts and skills although there is not a specialized GT social studies elementary curriculum. Review and Referral teams look at a number of things to make recommendations for middle school including assessments, student work samples, report card grades, student surveys and data from ELA. Students do not have to be recommended for other GT courses in order to be recommended for GT Social Studies in middle school.



MATH

In K-3 mathematics, students work through grade-level math curriculum while also having a chance for challenge and building deeper understanding through activities known as enrichment tasks. These tasks are provided based on the student's needs. If you're not sure how your child is performing in math, you can always talk to the teacher.

In Grade 4 Advanced Math, students should learn all of Grade 4 math standards and a portion of Grade 5 standards. In Grade 5 Advanced Math, students learn the remaining Grade 5 math standards and all the Grade 6 standards. There is also the possibility that students who are exceptionally talented in math can be subject-level accelerated through something called the Head and Shoulders program. Students in Head and Shoulders are advanced one (or more) grade levels in math. For more information about this program, contact BCPS' Office of Advanced Academics.



SCIENCE

All students in elementary school are taught Science concepts and skills although there is not a specialized GT science elementary curriculum. Review and Referral teams look at a number of things to make recommendations for middle school including assessments, student work samples, report card grades, student surveys and data from Math. Students do not have to be recommended for other GT courses in order to be recommended for GT Social Studies in middle school.



KNOW THE TEAM!

Getting to know your school's team can be a big help!

- Your child's classroom teachers – no one knows what your child is doing as well as his or her teacher.
- Your child's special area teachers – these teachers will know if your child is excelling in music, art, or physical education.
- The Advanced Academics facilitator – there is an AA facilitator in every school; they serve as a liaison between the school and the Office of Advanced Academics.
- The special education coordinator – your gifted child may also need special education services (these students are often called twice exceptional, or 2e) – the IEP chair can help you determine the best path.
- The school's administration – including counselors, assistant principals, and the principal, can be a helpful link to getting the right services for your child.

*This flyer was created by the
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