

# Advanced Academic Programs (AAP)

## Overview of Services

Kent Gardens Elementary School  
Longfellow Middle School  
McLean High School



# 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 a student's needs for advanced learning are met through a variety of services in the continuum

# Fairfax County Schools (FCPS) Beliefs

- All students deserve an excellent education.
- Students learn best when educators, families, 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.



## FCPS VA Local Plan for the Gifted

Information related to FCPS Advanced Academic Services

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Each school division in Virginia develops a comprehensive plan for the education of the gifted. The FCPS Local Plan for the Gifted provides specific explanations of FCPS' implementation of Regulations Governing Educational Services for Gifted Students in Virginia.

[FCPS Local Plan for the Gifted 2022 - 27 \(PDF\)](#)

# Two **Goals** of FCPS Advanced Academic Programs

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

- **Talent development** opportunities for **all students**
- **Differentiation** to meet the needs of **advanced learners**



## Talent Development

### What does Talent Development look like in Fairfax County Public Schools?

- Instructional opportunities to use AAP curriculum and strategies, regardless of identification (Tier 1 instruction)
- Students identifying and exploring their areas of interest. Students develop ownership through reflection, goal-setting, and identifying areas of interest
- Attention to historically underrepresented groups through the Young Scholars Model.

## Differentiation to Meet the Needs of Advanced Learners

### What does Differentiating for Advanced Learners mean in Fairfax County Public Schools?

- Meeting students by name and need if a student's need is different than most of the other students in the class.
- Access to differentiated curriculum and learning environment including: different pacing, increased depth and complexity, and removing scaffolds.
- Time to work with similar academic peer group to ensure peer-to-peer feedback to promote growth.
- Academic advising and complementary supports for success through implementation of the Young Scholars model.
- FCPS AAP offers a continuum of services to provide multiple entry points so that all students access the service that meets their cognitive and affective needs.

*FCPS AAP goal is to ensure all students have access to research-based, differentiated curriculum matching their profile and an academic peer group as part of their learning environment.*

# 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. If students are already accessing AAP strategies and curriculum often and have an academic peer group, there often is not a need for a different service.

## Advanced Academic Programs Overview

### Young Scholars Model - K-12

Elementary School	Middle School	High School		
Access to Rigor - K-6	IB Middle Years Program – Grades 6 -10 (select schools)			
Subject Specific AAP - K-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Honors Courses</li> <li>• Advanced Placement (AP)</li> <li>• International Baccalaureate (IB)</li> <li>• Dual Enrollment Courses</li> <li>• Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology</li> </ul>			
Part-Time AAP - Grades 3-6			Honors Courses in areas of Academic Strength/Interest Grades 7-8	
Full-Time AAP - Grades 3-8				

*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

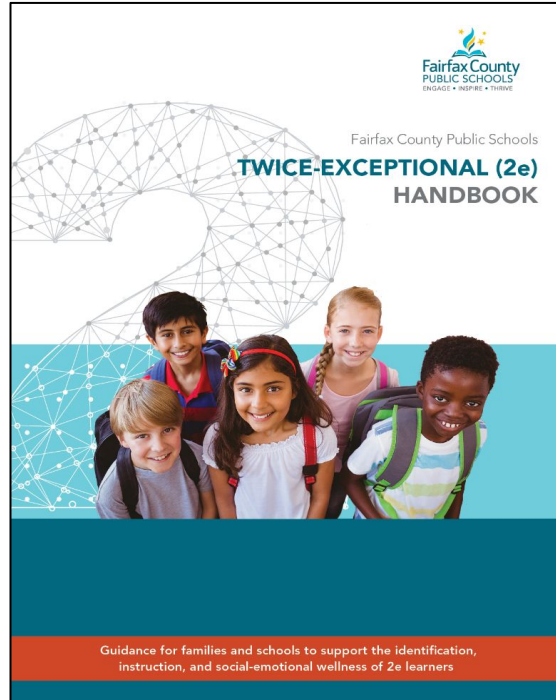


The FCPS **Young Scholars Model** seeks to identify and affirm, from an early age, students with high academic potential from groups historically underrepresented in advanced academic programming.

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](http://www.fcps.edu)  
and search **2e**.

# Advanced Academic Programs **ELEMENTARY SERVICES**

Grades K-6

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## **ELEMENTARY**

Grades K-6

### **Access to Rigor AAP Services**

**Access for all  
students**

Students have opportunities to think critically, reason, and problem-solve during Tier 1 instruction (instruction for all students).

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

# Critical and Creative Thinking Strategies

## ELEMENTARY

Grades K-6

## Access to Rigor AAP Services

## Critical and Creative Thinking Strategies

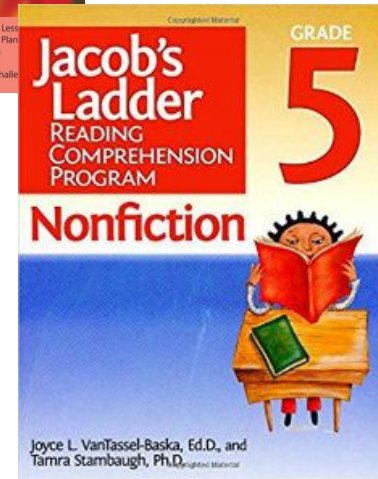
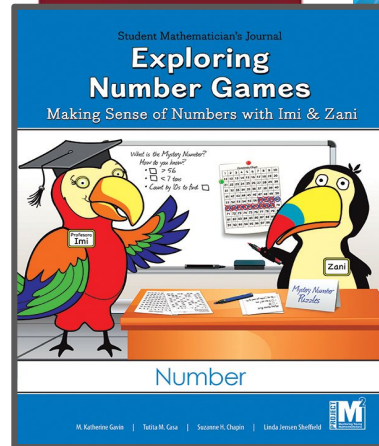
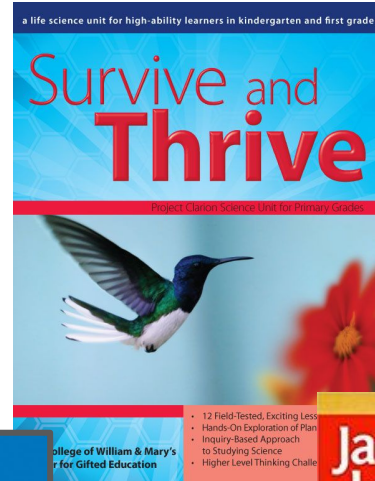
<p><b>VISUALIZATION</b></p>  <p>Consciously forming the mental images of something that is not actually present in the senses</p>	<p><b>PLUS, MINUS, INTERESTING</b></p>  <p>Framing the consideration of positive, negative, and intriguing aspects of an idea into one picture</p>	<p><b>ENCAPSULATION</b></p>  <p>Stating ideas in precise and concise form</p>
<p><b>QUESTIONING</b></p>  <p>Actively clarifying, exploring, challenging, and assessing the understanding of ideas</p>	<p><b>POINT OF VIEW</b></p>  <p>Analyzing how different people might look at the same idea and/or situation</p>	<p><b>DECISIONS &amp; OUTCOMES</b></p>  <p>Understanding that choosing from alternatives affects events which follow</p>
<p><b>ANALOGIES</b></p>  <p>Comparing two items in order to perceive similarities</p>	<p><b>MINDMAPPING</b></p>  <p>Recording information with supporting ideas and examples branching out from the main idea</p>	<p><b>FLUENCY, ORIGINALITY FLEXIBILITY &amp; ELABORATION</b></p>  <p>The production of many ideas, the expression of new ideas, and the recombination of existing ideas</p>

# ELEMENTARY

## Grades K-6

# Access to Rigor AAP Services

# AAP Curricular Resources



## **ELEMENTARY**

Grades K-6

## **Access to Rigor AAP Services**

All students in FCPS receive Access to Rigor Services as a part of their Tier I Instruction.

**No referrals or screening process needed.**

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## ELEMENTARY

Grades K-6

### Subject Specific AAP Services

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 by adjusting the complexity of instruction and/or more frequent and intense use of AAP curriculum and strategies.
- Grouping students by their strengths, interests, and readiness in those subject areas

## ELEMENTARY

Grades K-6

### Subject Specific AAP Services

Parents, guardians, and teachers may refer a child for Subject Specific AAP Services.

- Submit a referral form to the AART.
- Parents/Guardians will be notified after 30 school days regarding the local screening committees decision.
- In May, all students are also considered for subject specific services for the following school year. No referral is needed.

**Subject Specific AAP Services are re-evaluated each year at the local school.**



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## ELEMENTARY

Grades 3-6

### Part-Time AAP Services

Some students have advanced academic abilities in **multiple subject areas**. They need Part-Time AAP Services.

AARTs and classroom teachers provide opportunities to work with a cluster group of students with similar academic needs in multiple subject areas.

## ELEMENTARY

Grades 3-6

## Part-Time AAP Services

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

- Submit a referral form to the AART.
- Parents/Guardians will be notified after 30 school days regarding the committee decision
- In May, all students are also considered for school based services for the following school year. **No referral is needed.**

**Part-Time AAP Services continue through Grade 6. Students do not need to be evaluated each year.**

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## **ELEMENTARY**

Grades 3-6

## **Full-Time AAP Services**

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.

## ELEMENTARY

Grades 3-6

## Full-Time AAP Services

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

- **Fall Screening** (only available to students who are new to FCPS since January) - referral and optional materials are due by **October 15**.
- **Spring Screening** - referral and optional materials are due by **December 15**.
- Parents/Guardians will be notified according to the published **Testing and Identification Timeline**.

**Full-time AAP Services continue through Grade 8. Students do not need to be re-evaluated each year.**

## ELEMENTARY

Grades K-6

## Universal Ability Testing

FCPS offers an ability test to all students (universal screening).

### One-time Retest Option

- Parents/Guardians may request the one-time retest of an ability test by contacting the school testing coordinator.
- There are fall deadlines to let your school know that you would like to activate your one-time retest option. Typically this deadline is in early September and will be posted on the FCPS AAP Website. This year's deadline is September 15th.

## ELEMENTARY

Grades K-6

## 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.

FCPS considers local building norms and multiple data points in determining if a student has access to match a frequency of advanced curriculum and academic peer group.



# Who to Contact

## Kent Gardens Elementary School:

Debra Bulford, Advanced Academic  
Resource Teacher (AART)

- [drbulford@fcps.edu](mailto:drbulford@fcps.edu)
- [Kent Gardens AAP Website](#)

## AAP Office:

- 571-423-4740
- [AAP@fcps.edu](mailto:AAP@fcps.edu)

# For more information: [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu)

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