

# Advanced Academic Programs (AAP)

Overview of available services

ELEMENTARY - MIDDLE - HIGH SCHOOL



# 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 **Definition**

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“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 Regulation

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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

### [FCPS Local Plan for the Gifted 2016-2021](#)

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.

# AAP Continuum of Services

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

- Provide advanced academic opportunities to all students
- Identify student strengths and abilities
- Match students to levels of AAP service needed

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
Critical and Creative Thinking Strategies (I)	IB Middle Years Program – Grades 6 -10 (selected schools)	
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Part-Time Advanced Academic Program (III)		
Full-Time Advanced Academic Program (IV) - 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

FCPS developed the **Young Scholars Model** to help identify students from historically underrepresented populations for AAP services.

The model provides additional opportunity to **nurture talent and build confidence** so that students can meet their potential. The goal is to prepare Young Scholars for challenging courses and success in the future.



## ELEMENTARY

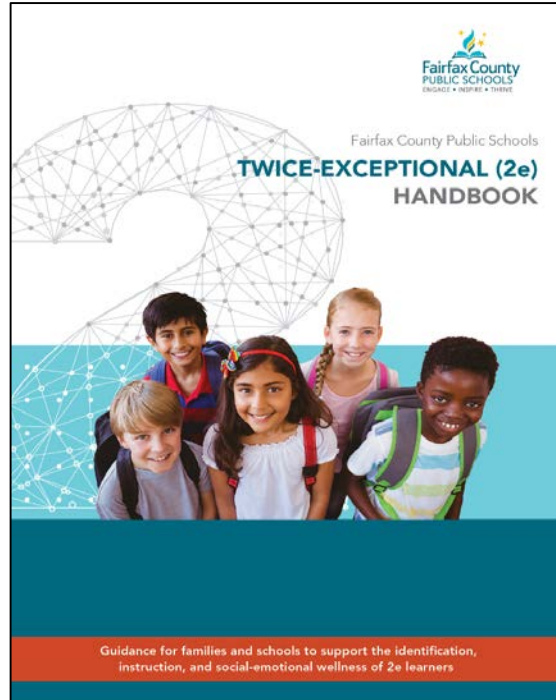
Grades K-6

## Young Scholars Model



## 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

## LEVELS OF SERVICE

### ELEMENTARY

Grades K-6

## Advanced Academic Programs Overview

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

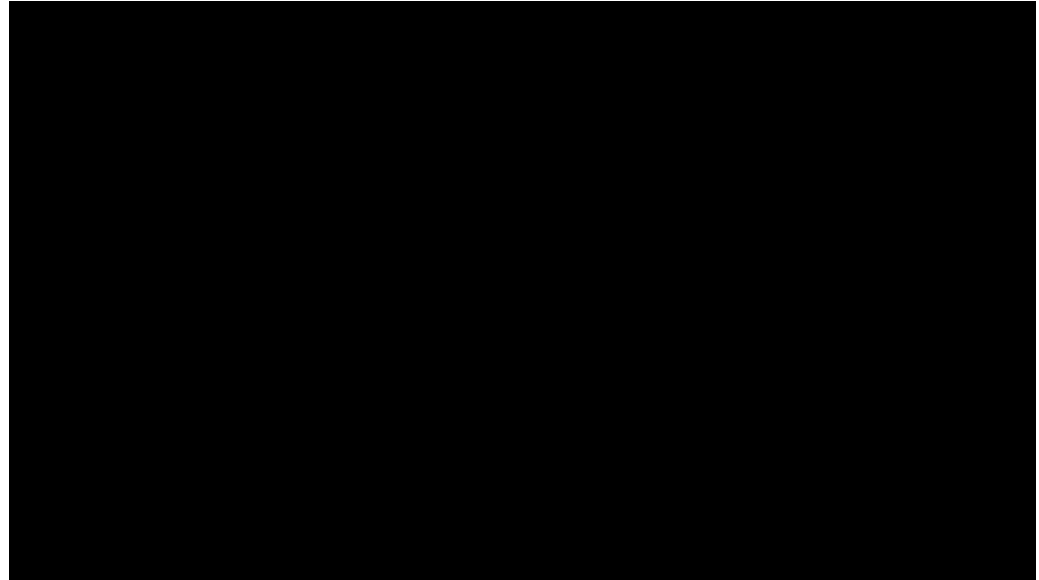
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# ELEMENTARY

Grades K-6

Continuum of  
Services



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## **ELEMENTARY**

Grades K-6

### **Level I:** **Critical and Creative Thinking**

All students need to learn to think, reason, and problem-solve.


- All teachers use critical and creative thinking strategies in their lessons
- Teachers use advanced academic curriculum each quarter

# Critical and Creative Thinking Strategies

## ELEMENTARY

Grades K-6

### Level I: Critical and Creative Thinking

<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>



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## ELEMENTARY

Grades K-6

### Level II: Differentiated Instruction in the classroom

Some students are strong in **one or more 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

Services are re-evaluated each year.

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## ELEMENTARY

Grades K-6

### Level III Part-Time services with the AART

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

AARTs provide gifted curriculum in Language Arts, science, social studies, and/or mathematics. This is provided by:

- the AART
- the classroom teacher

Parents may refer their child for screening at the local school for part-time AAP services.

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## **ELEMENTARY**

Grades 3-6

### **Level IV** **Full-Time** **services**

Some advanced learners need a full-time advanced academic program with differentiated instruction in all 4 content areas.

Students eligible for full-time AAP services receive:

- advanced Language Arts, science, and social studies curriculum, and
- math curriculum at least one year above grade level.

Students need to be screened for full-time services. Parents may refer their child to be screened.

# Advanced Academic Programs

## LEVELS OF SERVICE

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

Grades 7-8

## Advanced Academic Programs Overview

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**MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
Grades 6-8 (in  
selected schools)

## International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IB MYP)



The International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Program (MYP) is available in some FCPS middle schools.

The program encourages students to understand the connections between content and the real world through critical and reflective thinking.

In schools that have IB MYP, all students participate.

## Advanced Academic Programs Overview

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## 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.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

Grades 7-8

### Acceleration in Mathematics courses in Middle School

#### Acceleration in mathematics content:

- Any student in 7<sup>th</sup> grade may select Math 7 Honors. This course is one year above grade level. Students will learn 8<sup>th</sup> grade content.
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade students who want to take **Algebra I Honors** must meet criteria set by the FCPS math office.
- Algebra I courses are open to all 8<sup>th</sup> graders

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## MIDDLE SCHOOL

Grades 7-8

### Level IV Full-Time services

Some advanced learners need a full-time advanced academic program with differentiated instruction in all 4 content areas.

- English
- Science
- Social Studies
- Mathematics

Students are grouped with students who have similar needs.

There is a [screening process](#) for students to be found eligible for AAP full-time services.

Eligible students may attend their AAP center or stay at their local middle school.

# Advanced Academic Programs

## LEVELS OF SERVICE

### HIGH SCHOOL

Grades 9-12

## Advanced Academic Programs Overview

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## 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
- International Baccalaureate (IB) courses
- Dual Enrollment (DE) courses

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

## HIGH SCHOOL

Grades 9-12

### Honors Courses

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.

## HIGH SCHOOL

Grades 10-12 (in selected schools)

## Advanced Placement



The Advanced Placement (AP) program provides students with opportunities to take college-level courses in high school.

AP course curricula are designed by The College Board, in conjunction with university and high school faculty.

AP courses include an externally administered AP exam that may entitle a student to college credit. Some AP courses, such as AP Seminar and AP research, include performance-based assessments.

**HIGH SCHOOL**  
Grades 9-10 (in  
selected schools)

## International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program



The International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Program (MYP) is available in some FCPS high schools.

The program encourages students to understand the connections between content and the real world through critical and reflective thinking.

In schools that have IB MYP, all students participate.

**HIGH SCHOOL**  
Grades 11-12 (in  
selected schools)

## International Baccalaureate Diploma Program



The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program (DP) is available in some FCPS high schools.

The program focuses on developing students with a wide breadth and depth of knowledge in a variety of content areas. It focuses on the physical, intellectual, ethical, and emotional health of students.

In schools that have IB DP, students can take one or more courses or they can pursue the full IB diploma.

## HIGH SCHOOL

Grades 11-12 (in selected schools)

## International Baccalaureate Career-related Program



The International Baccalaureate (IB) Career-related Program (CP) is available in some FCPS high schools.

The IB CP provides an opportunity for students to design a rigorous course of study and prioritize their interests. Students can pursue academics and gain professional skills.

To earn the IB Career-related Certificate, students will complete IB DP courses, a career-related study, and the four components of the IB CP core.

## **HIGH SCHOOL**

Grades 11-12 (in selected schools)

### **Dual Enrollment Courses**

Dual enrollment courses are taught at the high school by an FCPS teacher. College credit is offered through agreements with a college or university.

Students must meet the requirements set by the college or university to enroll in the course. They will work with their high school to register for the course.

Each high school determines if they will offer dual enrollment courses based on their needs.

# Who to Contact

## Elementary Schools:

- Advanced Academic Resource Teacher (AART)
- Laura Hotaling – 703-757-2100
- lahotaling@fcps.edu

## Middle and High Schools:

- Director of Student Services
- School Counselor

## AAP Office:

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



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

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