Gifted and Advanced Learners

Gifted and advanced learners perform or show the potential to perform at high levels academically, artistically, creatively, or in leadership. These students are found in all Maryland schools and in all cultural, ethnic, and economic groups. There are gifted and advanced learners in [every grade](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/Page/29023) and at every school, and PPPCS is committed to meeting their needs.

PPPCS offers a variety of programming for students who are gifted or advanced learners. A committee of stakeholders, including teachers, parents, and community experts, have been developing strategies to serve these learners, as well as in gathering an application for EGATE status for the school. EGATE is an award given to Maryland schools that demonstrate excellence in providing gifted and talented services to students.

*General Programming*

The instructional methods used at PPPCS mirror many of the strategies that are used by successful teachers of gifted, talented, and accelerated learners. By applying the four tenets of PPPCS’s whole child instruction, classrooms use multi-sensory techniques, build relationships between content, and individualize instruction for all students. PPPCS also offers afterschool programming attractive to the advanced learner, including Robotics, National Academic League, and Destination Imagination.

*Identification*

Many students are also eligible for additional services provided by the school for gifted, talented, and accelerated learners. Student data and performance will be regularly reviewed by grade level teams and the GATE committee, however parents and teachers may also recommend a review of a student’s profile as needed. Multiple measures are used to identify students, including standardized testing (mClass, Star 360 assessment, PARCC for 3rd – 8th grade, and the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test) and classroom performances (grades, projects, and other exceptional performances). Staff will develop Independent Learning Plans (ILP) for students who are identified as gifted learners. These plans are designed to help build on a child’s strengths and promote academic growth.

*Programming*

Students identified through the GATE process are eligible to receive additional services during the school day. These include Primary Talent Development (PreK and K), Junior Great Books (Kindergarten – 2nd grade), participation in Think Tank (3rd-6th grades), and Honors classwork (7th and 8th grade). The Primary Talent Development Early Learning Program PreK - 2 is a science-based critical and creative thinking curriculum integrating gifted education and early childhood education theory and practice. The Junior Great Books program is a strong, inquiry-based language arts program that refines and extends students' skills in reading, thinking, and communicating. Think Tank is student directed learning to develop a passion project or develop a solution to a community presented problem. Honors classes are extension of the core academic work done in Middle School which require an additional project, presentation, or assessment to be completed for either a weighted grade point average or High School credit.

*Acceleration*

There are cases where a student is best served by being in a class beyond their chorological age. A teacher or a parent may request a meeting with the Principal for a student’s profile to be reviewed to determine if accelerating past the student’s chronological grade is in the child’s best interest to be promoted. Academic readiness is one variable used in this determination – social, emotional, and practical considerations are also applied in the Principal’s decision. The decision of the Principal decision is also subject to the review of Baltimore City Public Schools.