Advanced Academic Programs (AAP)

Overview of Available Elementary Services

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Services Available for Grades K-6







LOCAL LEVEL FULL TIME SERVICE (IV) TEACHERS:

GRADE 3- Sara Hovey GRADE 4-Sarah Czarnecki GRADE 5-Michele Shirey GRADE 6-Sarah Sorenson ADVANCED ACADEMIC RESOURCE TEACHER (AART):

Larissa Sheehan



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



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.





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.



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.



Talent Development

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

- Instructional opportunities to use AAP curriculum and strategies.
- Working with students to identify and explore areas of interest.
- Attention to 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' needs to go beyond grade level standards by name and need.
- Ensuring access to differentiated curriculum and environment including different pacing, increased depth and complexity, and removing scaffolds.
- Ensuring 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.



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 – Grade	es 6 -10 (selected schools)
Subject Specific Advanced	Honors Courses in areas of	Honors Courses
Differentiation (Level II)	Academic Strength/Interest Grades 7-8	 Advanced Placement (AP)
Part-Time Services (Level III) Grades 3-6	Grades 7 c	International Baccalaureate (IB)
Siddes & S		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

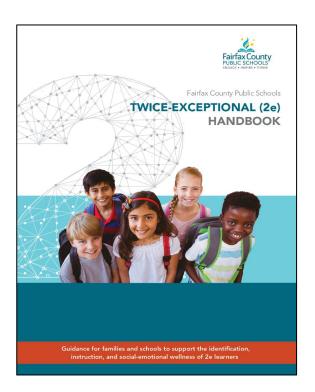
The FCPS Young Scholars Model seeks to identify and affirm, from an early age, students with high academic potential from groups historically underrepresented in advanced academic programming.

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**



Advanced Academic Programs AAP ELEMENTARY SERVICES

Grades K-6



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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 (CCT) 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



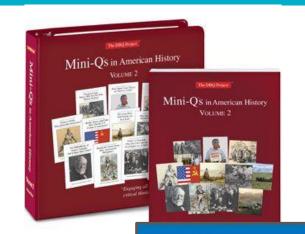




Grades K-6

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



Grades K-6

AAP
Access to Rigor:
Level I

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

No referrals or screening process needed.

Access for all students



Advanced Academic Programs Overview

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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



ELEMENTARYGrades K-6

AAP Subject
Specific
Advanced
Differentiation:
Level II

Parents, guardians, and teachers may refer a child for Subject Specific Advanced Differentiation (Level II) AAP services.

- Submit a referral form to the AART.
- Parents/Guardians will be notified after 30 business days regarding eligibility for subject specific AAP services.
- In May, all students are also considered for school based services for the following school year.

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



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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.



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 do not need to be evaluated each year.



Advanced Academic Programs Overview

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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.



Grades 3-6

AAP Full-Time Services:

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

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.

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.
 - CogAT Retest Deadline: September 22
 - NNAT Retest Deadline: October 15



Need Help? Please Contact

Elementary Schools:

 Advanced Academic Resource Teacher (AART)

Larissa Sheehan Itsheehan@fcps.edu

 Assistant Principal/School Testing Coordinator

Natalie Vershaw nvershaw@fcps.edu

AAP Office:

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



Secondary Advanced Academic Programs

Middle School Contacts

- AART Julie Green jagreen@fcps.edu
- Director of Student Services
- School Counselor

High School Contacts

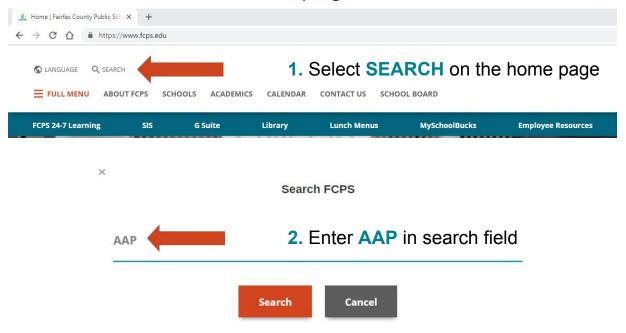
- Director of Student Services
- School Counselor

Please visit our website for additional information regarding opportunities available in middle school and high school.



For more information: <u>www.fcps.edu</u>.

Bonnie Brae's AAP site shares school specific information. Enter "AAP" from search field on Bonnie Brae's homepage.











www.fcps.edu

For our exiting families, a recording of tonight's session along with a copy of this slide deck, will be made available on Bonnie Brae's AAP site.

Please reach out with with any questions!

Advanced Academic Programs

Screening and Identification for Full-Time (level IV) AAP Services for Identified Students in Grades 3-8

STUDENTS IN GRADES 2-7 MAY APPLY





Topics

- FCPS Beliefs and FCPS AAP Program Goals
- A Continuum of Services Approach with Multiple Pathways for AAP
- Pathways for Full-time AAP Screening Consideration
- The Local School Role in Full-Time AAP Screening
- Optional Parent Contributions in Full-Time AAP Screening
- The Holistic Screening Process and the Role of Testing
- Communication About Decisions for Full-Time AAP



How can a student be considered for full-time AAP placement?



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How can my child be screened for Full-Time AAP services?

There are three pathways to screening:

- Family Referral
- 2. Staff Referral
- 3. Universal Screener Referral

All referrals result in the student being considered for Full-Time services.

There is no advantage based upon the type of referral source.





Advanced Academic Programs

Full-Time AAP (level IV) Services Referral Form Student Full Name _____ Date of Birth Student ID Current School Grade FCPS Classroom Teacher FCPS Advanced Academic Resource Teacher Parent/Guardian _____ Telephone Email Screening for subject specific advanced differentiation (level II) and part-time AAP (level III) takes place at FCPS elementary school sites. Contact the local school Advanced Academic Resource Teacher for Information. In the space below, please provide information to explain why the student should be considered for full-time AAP services. In the special bodies, passed protions introllments in department of the students foliated in the constitution of the committee is understanding of your student's learning needs. Suggestions include examples of critical and creative thinking, areas of strength, languages spoken by the student, a summary of how special learning needs, such as the need for an IEP or SOA Plan, might help the committee understand your students's profile of needs. Name and Signature of Referral Source Date of Referral Relationship to Student



How do I submit a referral for Full-Time services?

Families or teachers may submit the Full-Time AAP Referral Form

Go to www.fcps.edu and search "AAP forms"

Submit the referral form to the school by the deadline on the AAP website.

Referral forms and optional materials are due by December 15.



What is the Grade 2
Universal Screener Referral?

Some students will automatically be screened for Full-Time services based on ability test information. This is called the Grade 2 Universal Screener Referral.

There is no advantage in being referred through the Grade 2 Universal Screener Referral pathway.



What does the school do to prepare a screening file for a student who is referred?



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What will the school do to support the screening process for full-time AAP?

The local school committee, creates the screening file.

The school does not screen the file and make eligibility decisions. All files are screened by a central screening committee.



What will the school do to support the screening process?

The local school committee will provide these required items:

- Screening Summary Sheet
- School Committee Gifted Rating Scale (HOPE)
- Progress Reports (1 ¼ years)
- Test Data Sheet (FCPS test scores)
- Work Samples (4 minimum, up to 6)



What will the school do to support the screening process?

Gifted Rating Scale (HOPE)

The school-based committee will complete the gifted rating scale (HOPE).

Students are rated in social and academic areas compared to students of similar age/background/experience.



Can I contribute information if my student is referred for full-time AAP?



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What is the family's role in the screening process?

Input from the family provides information that schools may not have.

There are several ways families can support the screening process.



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What is the family's role in the screening process?

Referral Form

Submit the **Full-Time Referral Form** by the deadline on the AAP website

This form is required unless the student has a Grade 2 Universal Screener Referral.

It is helpful to submit the form if your child has a Grade 2 Universal Screener Referral.

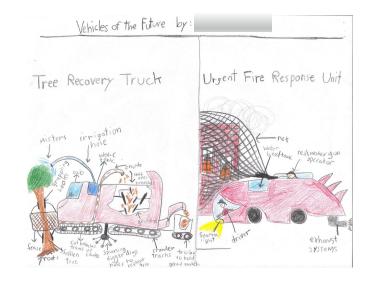
Schools will create the screening file and families may add materials to the file.



What is the family's role in the screening process?

Work Samples from families are optional. The school will submit 4 work samples.

Families may submit **2 pages** of student work samples.





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What is the family's role in the screening process?

Work Samples from families are optional. The school will submit 4 work samples.

Work Samples Guidelines:

- •2 pages maximum (front side only)
- Single-sided, 8 ½ x 11 pages (if possible landscape mode is preferred)
- No 3-D, video, or audio samples
- To ensure readability by committee members, it is not advisable to put copy more than one page of work on a single work sample page
- Copies or originals are accepted, but please note they will not be returned

AARTs will accept electronic work samples in the following formats: PDF and image files (e.g. ipg)



What is the family's role in the screening process?

Work Samples

Keep in mind this is an academic program. Art samples are accepted, however, samples from multiple content areas are most helpful for the screening committee.

The committee looks for exceptional critical and creative thinking, reasoning, and problem solving showcased in the student work.



What is the family's role in the screening process?

Parent/Guardian Questionnaire



Advanced Academic Programs Parent/Guardian Questionnaire Optional for Advanced Academic Programs Referral

Current School	Grade
Please circle or highlight how often you notice the f learly or type. Responses must fit on this form.	following in your child and give an example. Please print
. My child surprises me with their knowledge.	Occasionally Frequently Consistently
My child comes up with imaginative and/or unusual ways of doing things.	Occasionally Frequently Consistently
i. My child is intellectually curious and asks thoughtful questions.	Occasionally Frequently Consistently
. My child finds humor in situations or events unusual for their age.	Occasionally Frequently Consistently
. My child can focus on a particular topic for an unusually long period of time.	Occasionally Frequently Consistently
loes your child have a special learning need that y	
	, IEP, or 504 Plan). Parents/guardians may submit eds to the school to be included in the screening file.
aront/Guardian Signature	Date



What is the family's role in the screening process?

Parent/Guardian Questionnaire

Does your child have a special learning need you want the committee to know about?

Families may submit a page of additional information about a student's 2e needs.





What role does ability testing play in the holistic screening process?



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What does holistic screening mean?

Best practices in advanced academic identification include:

- universal screening
- holistic review of multiple data points, and
- use of tools that are inclusive of diverse cultures

Holistic means all of the parts of a file are considered together and none are weighted in decision making.



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What part does ability testing play in the screening process?

Ability testing is one of several data points considered in student portfolios.

Ability testing is not weighted more than other items in student portfolios.

Researchers in advanced academics note that relying on quantitative data (test scores) alone for identification is not shown to be valid. (Borland, 2012; Ho, 2018; Moon, 2017; Peters, 2022)



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How do students get ability test scores?

Ability tests:

- Grade 1: Naglieri Nonverbal Abilities Test (NNAT)
- Grade 2: Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)

Students may be referred through the Grade 2 Universal Screener Referral based in part on their scores on the Grade 1 NNAT and/or Grade 2 CogAT. These students will be automatically screened.



Should I get additional testing for my student?

Ability or Achievement Test Reports A parent/guardian may seek private testing through a **state-licensed** clinical psychologist or through **George Mason University (GMU)**.

If testing was not done at GMU, the clinical psychologist's **license number** must be included with the full report.



What happens to the screening portfolio once it goes to the central committee?



Can I see what was submitted to the central committee for my student?

We are happy to provide families a copy of the screening portfolio upon request after the files have been submitted for central selection review.

It is often helpful to see the information that was sent for central committee consideration and see the strengths-based notes and work samples in your student's file.

If you would like a copy, email the AART (after Feb. 15) at your local school to let them know you would like a copy when it is ready.



Who decides if the student is eligible for Full-Time services? Each student file is read by many people who carefully consider whether they see evidence that a different placement is necessary to meet a student's needs for advanced differentiation.

A central screening committee reviews all screening files. Central committee members attend training about how to view files holistically and fairly.

No one person makes an eligibility decision. Each file is read independently by at least 6 committee members.



What is the most important document in the screening file?

All materials are considered by the central selection screening committee

The file is looked at holistically. The committee members do not assign more weight or value to one document over another.



How will I know if my student is eligible for a full-time placement?

An email about the eligibility decision for full-time services will be sent to the email address of the enrolling parent.

The notification will include directions for how to accept placement or defer services.

The school(s) will provide information about orientation dates and times to help parents make decisions for full time placements.



When do eligible students begin full-time AAP services?

Spring Screening: Begin full-time AAP services beginning the next school year.

Fall Screening (only available to students who are newly enrolled in FCPS): Begin full-time AAP services second semester



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Will I get a report if my student is ineligible?

Parents are notified if their student is ineligible.

The notification includes information about the appeal process if a parent would like to submit additional information for consideration.

Due to the volume of files and the holistic nature of the screening process, there are not individual reports about why a student is ineligible.



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What does an ineligible decision mean?

In general, an ineligible decision means the committee felt the student had:

- a broad academic peer group and
- a match to AAP curriculum access in school-based opportunities.

It does not mean that a student isn't capable of advanced coursework.

FCPS does believe and expect that all students will engage in a variety of pathways to meet their advanced learning needs.



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Are ineligibility decisions final?

Parents/Guardians may appeal the decision.

Information on the appeals process is in the ineligible decision letter.

Students in grades 2-7 may be screened for full-time AAP each school year if a parent would like them to be reconsidered.

Students can also be screened for school-based (subject specific and part-time AAP) services



Who can answer questions about the AAP screening process?

Elementary Schools:

Advanced Academic Resource Teacher (AART)

Middle Schools:

Advanced Academic Resource Teacher (AART) or Director of Student Services

AAP Website:

Go to www.fcps.edu and search "AAP"

AAP Office:

Email: AAP@fcps.edu









www.fcps.edu

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AART Contact Information: Larissa Sheehan Itsheehan@fcps.edu