

Meeting the Needs of Students with High Ability

Academic Excellence

Interdisciplinary units
In-depth social studies/science units
Selected long/short term projects
Research skills

Independent Study Skills

Self-motivation
Note taking, outlining, summarizing
Electronic resource usage
Time management

Thinking Skills

Writing a research paper
Inquiry methods
Brainstorming techniques
Decision making
Problem solving techniques

Creative Thinking

Fluency, flexibility, originality, and elaboration
Create and perform plays and skits
Create murals
Creative writing
Produce original products

Understanding and Appreciation of Others

Work collaboratively
Study lives of gifted people
Experience speakers and field trips
Refine leadership skills

Characteristics of High Ability Students

- Heightened levels of curiosity and a wide variety of interest
- Ability to process abstract ideas
- Intellectual curiosity
- Flexibility in thinking
- Expanded vocabulary and verbal ability
- Advanced reading abilities
- Independent
- High level of personal responsibility and commitment
- Strong feelings and opinions
- Preference for original and creative responses
- High energy level

Adapted from Clark, B. (2008). Growing up Gifted

The social and emotional challenges below are common among high ability students and are included in our affective curriculum. Some topics may be covered in multiple years with an increasing degree of sophistication or through addressing a different facet of the same challenge.

- **Overexcitabilities/Intensities**
- **Asynchronous Development**
- **Perfectionism**
- **Self-esteem/Identity Issues**



EXCEL/HONORS PROGRAMS

For

Students With High Academic Ability



EXCEL/Honors Program

In the primary grades, opportunities are provided to allow for accelerated and differentiated coursework. High Ability students in Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade are cluster grouped in the same classroom when possible. “Expanded Curriculum for Exceptional Learners” is a program offered to students in grades three through five who are identified as High Ability–General Intellect. This program consists of full-time classes at Chandler Elementary School. The Honors Program is designed to meet the needs of middle and high school students with high academic potential. Honors classes with accelerated, differentiated, and enriched curriculums are offered at the middle school level. High Ability high school offerings include advanced and honors courses differentiated for ability and interest with multiple Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual-Credit course options available.

Selection Process

Students in Kindergarten, 2nd grade, and 5th grade will participate in the CogAT screening assessment. NWEA Map Growth Assessment scores are also used as a second data point during the identification process.

Being in the EXCEL class is not a prerequisite to participation in middle school or high school honors programming. Please see the WCSC High Ability Multifaceted Assessment Plan for more details.

If you would like more information about either the EXCEL or Honors Programs, please contact your building principal or the Office of Curriculum and Instruction at (812) 897-6037.



Program Mission

The goal of the High Ability Academic Program is to provide students who demonstrate consistently high academic achievement and potential for learning with challenging, educational opportunities appropriate for their needs.

Location

Third, fourth, and fifth grade EXCEL classes are housed at Chandler Elementary School. All corporation middle and high schools offer honors programming.

Additional Information

Transportation to the EXCEL program is provided from the student’s home district.

The corporation does not charge additional fees for participation in the EXCEL or Honors Program (some high school classes may have additional supply fees).

Students in the EXCEL and Honors Programs participate in school-wide activities.

In addition to having high academic ability, students are encouraged, supported, and expected to be motivated to learn.