

Department of Academic Advancement and Enrichment

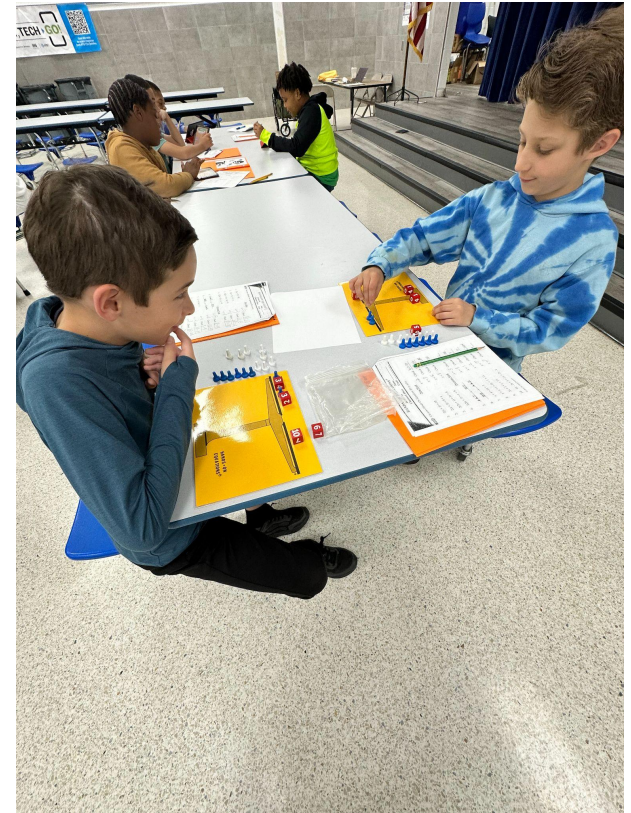
Gifted Education
Resource Program
Excel Art

Open House
September 2026



Meet the Staff

- Dr. Reginald Johns, DAAE Director
- Gifted Resource Teachers
 - **LaTisha Boyce**: All middle grades
 - **Mary Beth Crawford**: Barron, Patrick, Smith
 - **Timothy Hatok**: Kraft, Phillips, Langley
 - **Lisa Hibbitts**: Andrews, Bryan, Cooper
 - **Gena Hobbs**: Aberdeen, Asbury, Forrest
 - **Ginger Petsos**: Christian, Armstrong, Mary Peake
 - **Rebecca Whitehead**: Burbank, Phenix, Machen
 - **Dr. Kenneth Crum**: Bassette, Jackson



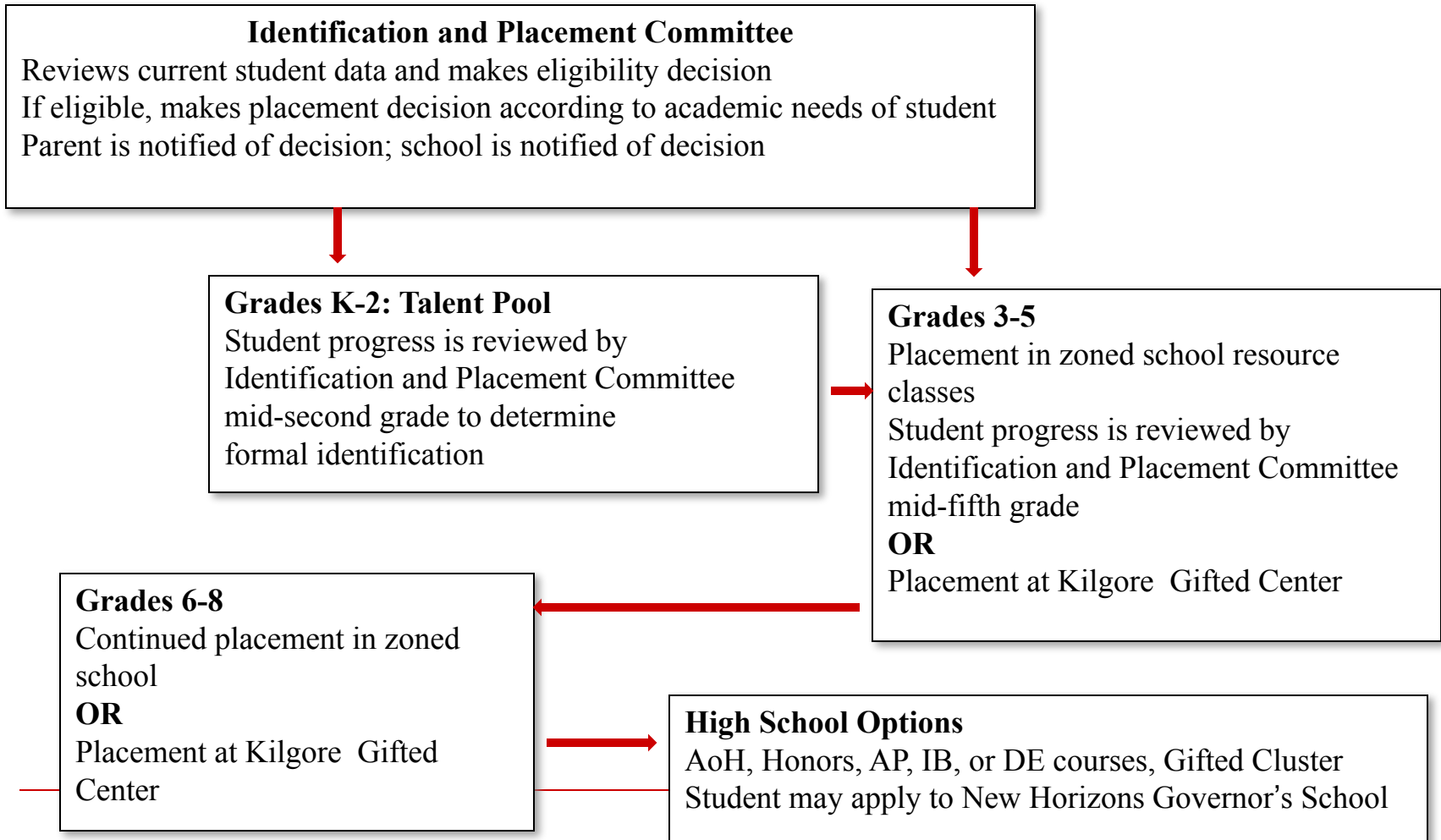
Programs

- ☐ Talent Pool, K-2
- ☐ Gifted Resource, 3-5
- ☐ Gifted Resource, 6-8
- ☐ Kilgore Gifted Center, grades 3-8
- ☐ Gifted Visual Arts 3-8
- ☐ High School
 - IB, AP, Honors Classes
 - HS Gifted Cluster
 - Governor's School



Coding Unit

Flow Chart for Gifted Education Academic Services



Automatic Placement Reviews

**All students already in Talent Pool or Gifted Resource
will be re-evaluated for future placement during 2nd and 5th grades.**

*Placement decisions are based upon ability test scores, classroom grades, and parent & teacher ratings. Decisions will be mailed.

2ND GRADERS

+ Students could be found **eligible for Gifted Resource** at zoned school, found **eligible for placement at Kilgore** or found **not eligible** to continue services

5TH GRADERS

+ Students could found **eligible for Gifted Resource** at zoned school or found **eligible for placement at Kilgore** Gifted Center.

Gifted Resource Curriculum

How is it different from a regular class?

1. Increased depth and breadth
2. Abstract reasoning
3. Critical and analytical thinking
4. Advanced questioning strategies
5. Problem based learning
6. Accelerated pace
7. Advanced topics and materials
8. Focus on broad concepts and themes
9. Cross-disciplinary topics
10. Incorporates understanding of social/emotional needs of gifted students



Spatial Reasoning Unit

Gifted Resource Curriculum

- Grades K-5
 - Critical thinking, problem analysis
 - Literature
 - Problem based learning
 - Advanced mathematical concepts
 - Coding





Fables

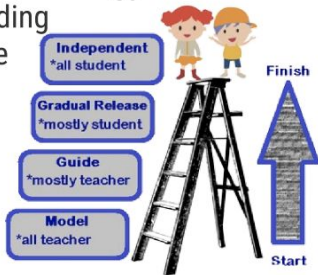
Exploring Aesop's Works



Tall Tales

Gifted Strategy:

- Scaffolding
- Creative writing



Learning Experiences

- Introduction to fables
- Discern between literal and figurative meaning using hyperbole
- Cross-curricular learning opportunities including a STEM project
- Identify elements in fables: hyperbole, problem/solution, personification

How does this help my child?

- Develops skills to look for patterns in texts
- Exposes students to a different genre of literature
- Provides opportunity for collaborative problem solving using STEM

Essential Questions

- How do we learn right from wrong?
- What does it mean to be good?

Essential Understandings

- Fables teach many life lessons.



Skills Developed

- Vocabulary building
- Read and demonstrate comprehension of fictional texts
- Critical thinking: Discern what is real and what is make believe
- Logical and deductive reasoning using clip clues
- Creativity
- Social-Emotional learning
- Oral and written communication skills

Gifted Strategy

- Scaffolding
- Creative writing



Learning Experiences

- Find regional locations on a map of the United States
- Learn the characteristics of a tall tale
- Separate fact from fiction: How do we know what's true?
- Classify author's work as figurative or literal
- Create a tall tale by writing and illustrating an original story

How Did This Help My Child?

- Provides experiences with a unique genre of literature
- Provides an opportunity to work cooperatively in a group to write a collaborative tall tale

Essential Questions

- What does it take to be a hero?
- What acts do you consider heroic?

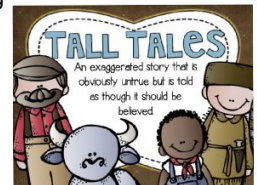
Essential Understandings

- Tall tales entertain us with exaggerated stories.
- Hyperboles are not meant to be taken literally.



Skills Developed

- Oral and written communication skills
- Character Analysis
- Logical reasoning
- Growth mindset
- Critical thinking
- Creativity





Myths

Passport Needed: Around the World with Myths

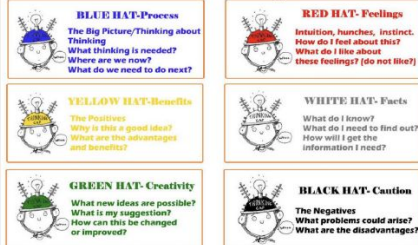


Novel Study

Frindle by Andrew Clements

Gifted Strategy:

de Bono's Six Thinking Hats



Learning Experiences

- Introduction to myths genre of literature
- Geography connection- Identify continents where specific myths originated from
- Experience myths from different cultures/continents through videos, reader's theaters, and read alouds
- Identify patterns in myths: how the world used to be, the problem/solution in the story, how the world changed forever
- Create an original myth

How does this help my child?

- Develops skills to look for patterns in texts
- Exposes students to a different genre of literature
- Provides opportunity for creative writing through prewrite and editing process

Essential Questions

- Can everything be explained?
- What is true?

Essential Understanding

- Myths are stories that are passed on through oral tradition to illustrate and shape a culture.
- A myth is an ancient story that attempts to explain forces of nature, customs, or beliefs.
- A myth can show examples of vice or virtue that can be applied to life lessons today.

Skills Developed

- Vocabulary building using the Frayer Model
- Read and demonstrate comprehension of fictional texts
- Geography skills: Continents
- Critical thinking: Discern what is real and what is make believe
- Logical and deductive reasoning using matrices
- Creativity
- Social-Emotional Learning
- Oral and written communication skills

Gifted Strategy

- de Bono's Six Thinking Hats



- Universal Theme - Validation through conflict

Learning Experiences

- Analysis of character traits
- Analyze how words are added to the dictionary
- Brainstorming ways to promote new words
- Identification of protagonist and antagonist
- Building word relationships with analogies

How Does This Help My Child?

- Provides accelerated exposure to literary terms and devices
- Provides opportunity to discuss how to protect and promote new ideas

Essential Questions

- When do we need to accept new ideas?
- How do new ideas become accepted by a community?
- What can we tell about others by the words they use?

Essential Understandings

- Words are needed by everyone.
- Words and language have power.
- Where you live affects the words and language you use.

Skills Developed

- Oral and written communication skills
- Critical thinking and creative thinking
- Creative problem solving
- Social-emotional learning
- Character analysis
- Logical reasoning
- Debate skills



Novel Study:

Number the Stars

by Lois Lowry

Gifted Strategies

- Kaplan's Icons of Depth and Complexity
- Frayer Model
- Universal Theme- Change results from conflict



Learning Experiences

- Build background knowledge of WWII
- Identify Axis, Allied, Neutral, and Occupied Countries
- Consider how an author integrates history into a fictional story

Skills Developed

- Map skills
- Figurative language
- Character analysis
- Identify literary terms such as foreshadowing, metaphors, similes, and story mood in the text
- Analyze poetry



Essential Questions

- What role should we play in protecting others?
- What does it mean to be a good human being?
- Is it ever okay to break the law? When and why?
- What makes a law unjust?
- What would you be willing to risk your life for?

Essential Understandings

- People are shaped by the world events that occur during their lives.
- Doing what is right may mean personal risk.
- How a person reacts to hardship can both test and transform their character.

How Does This Help My Child?

- Promotes thinking
- Build advanced vocabulary
- Provides opportunity for challenge



Novel Study:

Bud, Not Buddy

by Christopher Paul Curtis

Gifted Strategies

- Kaplan's Icons of Depth and Complexity



- Socratic seminar
- Universal Theme - Finding a place of belonging

Learning Experiences

- Build background of the Great Depression - Hoovervilles, bread lines, riding the rails
- Build background of the Harlem Renaissance - jazz music
- Debate
- Express personal connections to the story through art
- Analyze primary sources

How Does This Help My Child?

- Provides accelerated exposure to literary terms and devices
- Provides opportunity to discuss historical fiction

Essential Questions

- What does it mean to belong?
- How can life be good in bad times?

Essential Understandings

- We develop our sense of self (identity/belonging) through encounters.
- Attitude influences how a character approaches and resolves challenges in life.

Skills Developed

- Critical thinking
- Creative problem solving
- Logical reasoning
- Character analysis
- Debate skills
- Social-emotional learning
- Oral and written communication skills





Novel Study:

The Rhythm of Time

by Quest Love w/ S.A. Cosby

Gifted Strategies

- Kaplan's Icons of Depth and Complexity
- Socratic seminar
- CER
- Universal Theme- Staying true to yourself and authentic connection



Learning Experiences

- Explore how technology influences society
- Analyze universal themes
- Investigate the influence of music
- Make connections and reflect

Skills Developed

- Critical thinking
- Logical reasoning
- Debate skills
- Social-emotional learning
- Oral and written communication skills



Essential Questions

- Is technology good or bad for us?
- Can music truly change minds?

Essential Understandings

- Technology shapes society and vice-versa, which often leads to both significant benefits and new, complex challenges.
- Themes transcend the specific story, resonating with common human experiences and lessons.
- Music can evoke different emotional responses based on personal experience, and in some contexts, may have negative influences.

How Does This Help My Child?

- Makes learning meaningful
- Prepares students for the future
- Strengthens media and technology awareness



Novel Study:

Time for a Change

by Quest Love w/ S.A. Cosby

Gifted Strategies

- Kaplan's Icons of Depth and Complexity
- Socratic seminar
- CER
- Universal Theme- Friendship and loyalty



Learning Experiences

- Explore how technology influences society
- Analyze universal themes
- Investigate the influence of music
- Make connections and reflect

Skills Developed

- Critical thinking
- Logical reasoning
- Debate skills
- Social-emotional learning
- Oral and written communication skills



Essential Questions

- How can our choices in the present affect our future?
- How do friendships, trust, and collaboration help us overcome challenges?

Essential Understandings

- Our choices can have consequences that extend beyond the immediate moment.
- Even small decisions can create significant changes in the lives of ourselves and others.
- Strong relationships are built through communication, honesty, respect, and trust.
- People with different strengths and perspectives can accomplish more by working together.

How Does This Help My Child?

- Makes learning meaningful
- Encourages responsibility
- Strengthens media and technology awareness
- Strengthens collaboration



Gifted Visual Arts Excel Art Program

	Elementary 3-5	Middle 6-8
Service	40 minutes a week pull out with school's art teacher.	Summer Program - 2 weeks long. Applications due-Oct



Measuring Student Growth

- Pre/post tests for the curriculum topics
- Progress reports
- Annual program evaluation
- Parent and student surveys



Learning Principle of Flight

Gifted Local Advisory Committee

- ☐ Meetings: Oct 6th, Jan 12th, March 16th
 - ☐ Conducts annual surveys
 - ☐ Submits an annual report to the school board on gifted education in HCS
 - ☐ The public is invited, meetings held at KGC Media Center from 6-7pm
 - ☐ Agendas and minutes on the web page
 - ☐ Nominations are welcomed .
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Gifted Organization - Virginia Gifted

☐ Upcoming Event



**VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION
FOR THE
GIFTED**
Supporting Gifted Education Through Advocacy & Excellence

Virginia Gifted Seminar
October 5, 2026
Virginia Union University

Dornswalo Wilkins-McCorey
Keynote Speaker

Donovan Taylor Hall
Feature Speaker

Odyssey of the Mind Tournament

- ❑ Consider volunteering!
- ❑ Consider coaching a team!
- ❑ Contact OM Coordinator – Melanie French
- ❑ mfrench@hampton.k12.va.us
- ❑ Help your school form a team.
- ❑ Tournament in Spring/virtual option



Opportunities for Parents

- ☐ Complete the annual online surveys
 - ☐ Gifted Local Advisory Committee
 - ☐ Contact us if you would like to serve
 - ☐ Odyssey of the Mind
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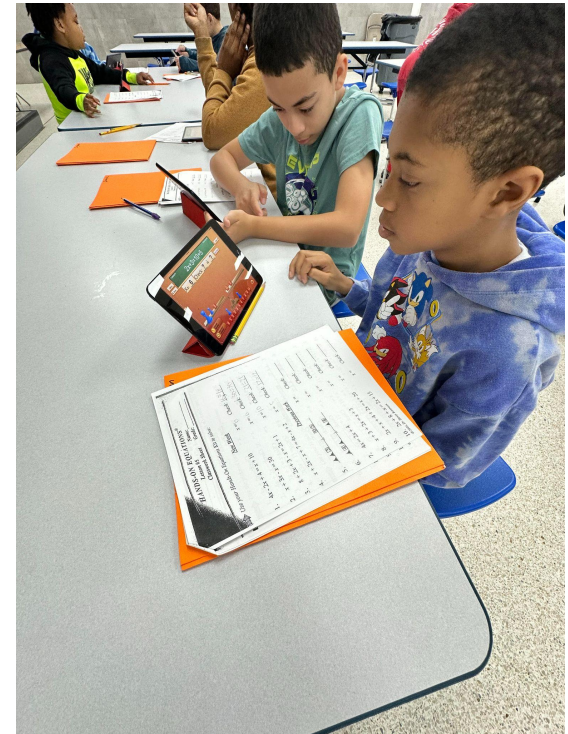
Next steps



- Contact Info
- Dr. Reginald Johns
- DAAE Director
 - rjohns@hampton.k12.va.us

Contact us through email:

- ❑ gifted@hampton.k12.va.us
- ❑ DAAE office: 727-2160
- ❑ DAAE office hours:
8:00 am - 4:30 pm



Algebraic thinking

Meet and Greet

- **Gifted Resource Teachers** in the cafeteria
 - **Refreshments** will be provided
 - Please remember you may also request to meet with the gifted resource teacher on **HCS' conference day, Nov 3rd**, or contact them by email with specific questions regarding your child's progress.
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