



# **Meeting Students' Needs for Enrichment and Acceleration at the Elementary Level**

Parent Presentation

2018



# Centers for Enriched Studies

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# Enriched and Accelerated Programming in MCPS Elementary Schools

- Curriculum 2.0 offers all students the ability to use creative and critical thinking skills through interdisciplinary connections within core content areas of instruction and quarterly inquiry projects.
- Additional opportunities for enrichment occur in the core content areas as follows:
  - ❑ Math Enrichment: Weekly opportunities beginning in kindergarten
  - ❑ Math acceleration beginning with Math 4/5 (typically Grade 4)



# Enriched and Accelerated Programming in All MCPS Elementary Schools

## ❑ Reading Language Arts

- ❑ Advanced texts selection within small group reading

- ❑ Curriculum extension:

- Quarterly opportunities to participate in Junior Great Books through questioning, inquiry and discourse skills beginning in kindergarten
- Second semester opportunities to participate in William and Mary (intro, partial or full implementation) through advanced texts, writing, research, and theme-based integration beginning in Grade 3

## ❑ Science and Social Studies

- ❑ Scientific and historical investigations



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# Centers for Enriched Studies

- The goal of the program is to provide highly able students with an accelerated and enriched instructional program.
- The Centers are designed for students whose needs cannot easily be met in their home school and are seen as outliers amongst their peers.



# Centers for Enriched Studies

- ▶ The Centers provide an instructional atmosphere that promotes thinking skills, risk taking, and creative expression to help highly able students realize their potential.
- ▶ Students enrolled have unique academic profiles and educational needs that are more easily addressed in the Centers.



# Who are the Centers designed for?

- The Centers focus on enrichment and acceleration in the areas of reading, language arts, science, and social studies, utilizing above grade level materials and instructional standards from gifted research.
- Programs are currently housed at nine regional sites and four local sites.

# Who are the Centers designed for?

- ▶ Regional Centers\*: Lucy V. Barnsley, Chevy Chase, Clear Spring, Cold Spring, Drew, Fox Chapel, Mill Creek Towne and Pine Crest/Oak View elementary schools
- ▶ Local Centers: Spark M. Matsunaga, Piney Branch, Rachel Carson and Stonegate elementary schools. [Local students only].

\* see handout for feeder schools\*

# Centers: Instructional Design

*The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) outline the standards that students should access at each grade level. The Centers offer a challenging curriculum that provides opportunities to access grade level standards with above grade level resources.*

- Addresses standards and objectives in the CCSS while content, processes, and products are enriched or accelerated to meet the needs of highly able students.
- Presents curriculum through interdisciplinary units that require integration of concepts and essential ideas across disciplines.

# Centers: Instructional Design

- Provides more in-depth examination of topics in the Curriculum 2.0 and examination of concepts related to, but not included in, the CCSS.
- Supplements with resources beyond the school setting to provide appropriate educational experiences for gifted and talented students.
- Emphasizes the development and application of creative and critical thinking skills to solve a problem, or create a new product, process, or idea.



# Centers: Academic Environment

- The Centers provide a learning environment that enriches, accelerates, and extends the MCPS curriculum.
- The Centers provide students opportunities to:
  - Participate in a learning environment that provides a rigorous academic program.
  - Engage in problem solving and critical, creative, and evaluative thinking.
  - Engage in academic dialogue and develop an openness to new ideas.
  - Discover new problems and new solutions; create authentic products.
  - Pursue in-depth independent study and acquire advanced research skills.

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# Centers: Instructional Approach

*Instruction engages the learner, focuses on the use of inquiry as a tool supporting all academic areas, and reflects the complex nature of learning and human expression.*

- Provides appropriately challenging instruction with advanced materials.
- Uses a wide variety of instructional strategies which allow students to become facilitators of their own learning.
- Arranges for instructional groupings based on academic needs of the students.



# Centers: Participation in the Local School

- Instructional groups in the Centers are flexible and fluid. Students may switch between Center classrooms for various subjects.
- Mathematics instruction follows MCPS math curriculum.
  - Course recommendations for Grade Four are made by your local third grade teachers in the Spring.
  - Math classes are made across the Grade Four based on course recommendations.

# Centers: Participation in the Local School

- ▶ All students and their parents/guardians are participating members in the center school and are part of the school community.
- ▶ Students continue to participate in the school's weekly specials (art, music, instrumental music, P.E.).
- ▶ Students participate in grade level and/or Center curriculum based field trips as determined by each Center program.
- ▶ Students can participate in after school programs (transportation is not provided outside the local school boundary).



# Admission Process: System Communication and Procedures

- Families of all Grade 3 students were informed about the Centers by mail in September.
- In February, all grade 3 students will be reviewed for and notified of eligibility to test for admission for potential programming.
- Eligible students participate in an on-line above-grade-level assessment administered at the child's school.
- Information for home school or private school students is available on our website [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms).

# Admission Process: System Communication and Procedures

- ▶ Students who demonstrate an academic need beyond their local peer group will be considered for one of the seats in the regional centers.
- ▶ A committee meets to examine a variety of data sources which include academic performance, standardized tests, local peer group, and potential for success with accelerated and enriched instruction.
- ▶ Families are notified of selection decisions in April via U.S. postal mail.

\*\*There are a limited number of seats in each program\*\*

# Transportation

MCPS provides transportation from central stops for students in the Center Programs.

1. Transportation is provided for the Center from centralized stops (*usually* at MCPS schools) determined by the Department of Transportation.
2. Stops may be several miles from the student's home.
3. Parents are responsible for arranging transportation to and from the centralized stops.
4. Bus trips are usually significantly longer and vary by program and location.

*Please carefully consider transportation options and responsibilities.*



# Frequently Asked Questions

*Q: What data points are being looked at for selection?*

A: The elementary process will include: Measures of Academic Progress, instructional reading level, and student services. A composite of MCPS student performance data (includes report card) will be used at selection in addition to outside assessment tools.

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# Frequently Asked Questions

*Q: How will I know which math class my child has been recommended for?*

A: Your elementary school will send home parent communications about the math course recommendations in late May/ June. This information will be sent to the regional center.

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# Frequently Asked Questions

*Q: What is the average class size?*

A: The Centers for Enriched Studies follow MCPS class size guidance for Grade 4 and 5. Our average size is 28 students.

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## Frequently Asked Questions

*Q: Is it possible to take my local bus to school and then catch the bus to the Center?*

A: No. Transportation is provided from centralized stops. We can not guarantee a that the neighbor buses will get to the schools in time to catch the shuttles.

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## Frequently Asked Questions

*Q: With the changes in feeder patterns to the program sites, will my current fourth grader in the CES program be moved next year if our local elementary's school catchment changed?*

**A:** No, your child currently enrolled in the program will complete the CES program at their established site for 2018-2019.



# Frequently Asked Questions

*Q: With the changes in feeder patterns to the program sites, can I choose which site I would like to attend if I have a child already in the program?*

A: No. We will begin the process of phasing out current transportation from centralized sites to adjust the changes for 2018-2019.



Thank you for attending this evening's presentation!