

Calvert County Public Schools

Elementary Advanced Learning Program



Goals of the Calvert County Public Schools Advanced Learning Program

The Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) Advanced Learning Program provides enrichment opportunities for all students and extends learning for students who are identified as having advanced academic ability. This Advanced Learning philosophy supports the following goals:

Academic Enrichment for All Students. These are school-based enrichment experiences providing learning opportunities for students at all ranges of ability.

Co-Curricular Opportunities for Students to Cultivate Their Talents and Interests. CCPS offers students the opportunity to participate in co-curricular learning activities. CCPS provides students additional experiences in fine arts and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) that extend beyond the standard curriculum.

Curriculum Extension for High Ability Learners. CCPS is responsive to the needs of high ability learners through the use of curriculum extensions that ensure their potential for working beyond the standard English-language arts and mathematics curriculum.

What Does the Maryland State Department of Education Ask of School Systems?

The *Annotated Code of Maryland*, 8.201 defines a gifted student as “a student who is identified by professionally qualified individuals as: (1) Having outstanding talent and performing, or showing the potential for performing, at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared with other students of a similar age, experience, or

environment; (2) Exhibiting high-performance capabilities in intellectual, creative, or artistic areas; (3) Possessing an unusual leadership capacity; or (4) excelling in specific academic fields.”

These definitions of giftedness assist educators with matching students’ needs with educational programming. Therefore, the use of the term “gifted” applies to the program of services rather than the child.

The CCPS Elementary Advanced Learning Program

School-wide Enrichment Program

The School-wide Enrichment Program provides school-based enrichment opportunities that include general exploratory activities, which are designed to maximize exposure to a wide variety of potential areas of interest. These activities are available to all students and may include:

Type 1 Activities (K-5) - Enrichment for All Opportunities, such as field trips, guest speakers, and cultural arts events and school-wide celebrations.

Type 2 Activities (3-5) - Interest-Based Enrichment Cluster Opportunities, which are classroom-based opportunities, such as interest-based short term research projects, student-led presentations, or creative writing activities.

Type 3 Activities (3-5) - Extended Learning Opportunities, are activities that provide individual students or small groups with the chance to participate in investigation activities that may span several weeks or more.

Primary Talent Development (Grades K-2)

The K-2 Primary Talent Development Program is a science-based critical and creative thinking curriculum. Primary Talent Development engages all students in open-ended, hands-on, problem solving experiences which promote the learning behaviors associated with lifelong success: perceptivity, communicativeness, inquisitiveness, persistence, creativity, resourcefulness, and leadership.

Advanced Learning Curriculum Extension Program (Grades 4-5)

High ability students in English-languages arts (ELA) and/or mathematics will be provided the opportunity to participate in the Advanced Learning Curriculum Extension Program.

ELA Curriculum Extensions

Students participating in the ELA program will be grouped with other high ability peers for a portion of their ELA instruction. During these

learning opportunities, students will participate in curriculum extensions. Curriculum extensions are learning opportunities that extend the essential curriculum to provide additional rigor for students. This program offers students the opportunity to conduct in-depth research, engage in advanced writing and oral communication exercises, explore a variety of publishing methodologies, frequently work with more complex text, and engage in higher level thinking.

Mathematics Curriculum Extensions

Students participating in the mathematics program will be grouped with other high ability peers for a portion of their mathematics instruction. Instruction will include both the grade level essential curriculum, as well as mathematics curriculum extensions that provide additional rigor for students. This program will offer students opportunities to deepen their conceptual understanding of mathematical concepts in preparation for the accelerated mathematics opportunities offered in middle school.

Co-Curricular Advanced Learning Opportunities

Fine Arts:

CCPS has a robust performing arts program. Beginning in grades 4 and 5, all students can participate in instrumental or choral music programming where they learn to read music, hone thinking and listening skills, utilize creative abilities and share personal expression.

STEM Opportunities:

CCPS elementary students have opportunities to practice science, technology, engineering, and mathematics processes, answer complex questions, and solve real world problems as a part of

engaging in STEM co-curricular opportunities. Examples of programs students may participate in at various schools are:

Math Challenge
Mathematics Engineering Science
Achievement (MESA)
Robotics

These enrichment activities give students additional opportunities to meet real world challenges while engaging in purposeful and relevant hands-on, inquiry and problem-based learning.

Identification of Giftedness

The CCPS identification process for giftedness has been designed in accordance with the *Criteria for Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education Guidelines* produced by the Maryland State Department of Education. This process of identifying students with demonstrated or potential giftedness includes a screening of the total school population at each elementary school. Additional indicators of ability and achievement are obtained through a balance of assessment methods and observable learning characteristics. CCPS makes every effort to utilize procedures designed to limit bias with respect to race, culture, ethnicity, socio-economic background, gender, or handicapping condition. All information related to the identification of students who may benefit from extended learning opportunities is shared with school staff in order to support the placement of students in appropriate learning opportunities.

More information about specific assessment timelines and procedures can be obtained from your child's school.

For More Information

For more information about advanced learning opportunities for your child, please contact your child's school.

Additional information can be found at our website. Go to departments, select instruction, and choose program information. You may also contact the Department of Instruction at (443) 550-8000.

Calvert County Public Schools Anti-Discrimination/ Harassment Information

Anti-Discrimination Statement

Calvert County Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, ancestry or national origin, familial status, marital status, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation or genetic information or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

- Director of Student Services
- Director of Human Resources
1305 Dares Beach Road
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
410-550-8460

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit the Office of Civil Rights Complaint Assessment System at: <http://ocrcas.ed.gov> or call 1-800-421-3481.

Anti-sexual, Anti-racial and Anti-disability Harassment Statement

Discrimination can manifest itself in behaviors such as bullying, harassment, or intimidation of individuals. Calvert County Public Schools does not tolerate any form of harassment including, but not limited to, sexual, racial, or disability. Any individual (student, employee, or community member) who believes that he or she has been subjected to any form of harassment is encouraged to report the allegation of harassment. Students, parents and community members may report allegations of harassment to:

Ms. Kimberly Roof
Director of Student Services
Calvert County Public Schools
1305 Dares Beach Road
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Employees may report allegations of harassment to:

Ms. Laveeta Hutchins
Director of Human Resources
Calvert County Public Schools
1305 Dares Beach Road
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Calvert County Public Schools is committed to conducting a prompt investigation for any allegation of harassment. If harassment has occurred, the individual will be disciplined promptly. Disciplinary actions for students found to have engaged in any form of harassment may result in suspension or expulsion. Disciplinary actions for employees found to have engaged in any form of harassment may result in suspension or termination. Calvert County Public Schools encourages all students, parents, employees, and community members to work together to prevent any form of harassment.

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit [Office of Civil Rights Complaint Assessment System](http://ocrcas.ed.gov) for the office that serves your area, or call 1-800-421-3481.