

PACE Services: Ecker Hill

(Program for Academic Challenge and Enrichment)

Our Middle School PACE programming is coordinated differently than our Elementary program. Students who demonstrate high academic aptitude/achievement through testing in math, language arts or both are cluster grouped in those areas. Specific academic aptitude/achievement is defined as significant cognitive ability and/or achievement above their age peers in one or more academic area(s). The cluster-grouping model will allow groups of 3-8 students with similar strength and ability to be grouped within the same general education class. Students who were identified as LEVEL III students in elementary school determine our clusters at Ecker Hill. Teachers are informed of these class groupings. Please note, sometimes electives and dual immersion enrollment may influence some groupings. There is not a pull-out blocked service model at Ecker Hill for Level III students.

Ecker Hill does not use the elementary leveled service model to support identified students. Ecker Hill enrolls over 750 students in two grade levels across four content areas, scheduled in blocks. The middle school block schedule model does not have the structure to incorporate the elementary leveled service model. The majority of support and accommodations for your student will come from the general education classroom teacher using differentiated educational strategies when appropriate. If you have concerns, please feel free to reach out to your child's content area teacher. In addition, the classroom teacher may request assistance from the PACE coordinator. Mrs. Mason provides additional materials, is available to teach small groups of students in the classroom, and/or assist the regular teacher in instructional planning. Students do meet with Mrs. Mason for Language Arts Enrichment in a push in model whereby she teaches groups within the ELA classroom. All students may also participate in the Wordmasters program. Students who pre-test out of math units work with Mrs. Mason for math enrichment. Math enrichment services are based upon classroom cluster groupings and classroom formative assessments. The schedule varies for these enrichment sessions as there is not a full time specialist at Ecker Hill.

As students transition to 7th grade, Ecker Hill offers an Honors Math pathway and a debate elective if enough students enroll.

New Middle School Students

Ecker Hill Middle School uses an enrichment model. New students to the district who provide testing data on 2 different measures in the same academic area and score at the 98th percentile or higher nationally will be cluster grouped in that specific academic area. If students do not meet the 98th percentile criteria, their district benchmark data will be reviewed after fall diagnostic testing is conducted. Students who score at the 98th percentile or higher nationally on beginning of the year data will be eligible for enrichment services in middle school.

Please reach out to Gina Mason, gmason@pcschoools.us if you have any additional questions.