

September and October 2026

Greetings to all parents and guardians of students in the BCLA AIG classes!

This is your annual update on the lessons and activities in which your children have been participating. Students in AIG have been meeting three days a week, for an hour each day, during WIN (What I Need) time. This means that AIG classes do not interfere with any core instruction, and ensures all students are not missing any math, reading, science, or social studies. The primary focus of our classes is to provide students with advanced learning opportunities that go beyond the typical curriculum. Instead of the usual math or reading class, it is a *thinking* class.

Our classes had to be paused temporarily at the end of September through the beginning of October, as I was administering AIG testing to multiple groups of students throughout our school. As we resumed, I was very happy to see all the students were very eager to get back to work!

Throughout September and October, AIG students have advanced their skills in activities that focus on communication, writing, and depth of thought, including:

- **Socratic seminar discussions**, in which students learn from the wisdom of ancient philosophers and leaders like Marcus Aurelius, Zeno, and Epictetus. We use their quotes to deepen our understanding of ourselves through deep group discussion of the 4 pillars of virtue: Wisdom, Courage, Justice, and Temperance.
- **Debating and writing persuasive arguments**, as students learned how to formulate strong claims supported by factual evidence. We practiced how to listen closely to analyze our opponent's arguments, then respond powerfully, yet respectfully. 3rd through 5th grade participated in classroom and small group debates, and our 6th graders wrote, practiced, and presented full persuasive speeches.

All students receive regular feedback from me on their work, though not traditional grades. Our goal is for learning to not be driven by simply the pursuit of a score. We are learning for the sake of learning, in its purest form, seeking intellectual growth through curiosity and challenge.

A progress report rubric will be sent home on November 3rd to provide insight on how your child has progressed in the areas of creativity/ingenuity, cooperation, communication, and problem solving. This does not need to be signed and returned. It is simply information for you and your child.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to work with your child this school year. I look forward to how much growth we can achieve together!

If you have any questions, needs, or concerns, please feel free to reach me at john.bugaiski@bclaschools.org. I will be glad to speak with you.

Thank you,
John Bugaiski