Luther Jackson Middle School
Rising 7th Grade Orientation

ADVANCED ACADEMIC CENTER PROGRAM
PRE-SESSION
FEBRUARY 23, 2015
## Continuum of Advanced Academic Services

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Fairfax County Public Schools Advanced Academic Programs for Middle School

The following diagram highlights the major similarities and differences between the Advanced Academic Level IV Center and the Honors classes in the middle school.

**Advanced Academic Level IV Center**
- Students identified through central screening process
- Students have high general intellectual ability
- Students are served in all core subject areas
- Offered in eleven schools
- POS and SOLs are used as a base for compacting, accelerating and/or enriching curriculum
- More focus on higher order thinking skills and meta-cognition
- Emphasis on demonstrating autonomy and independence

**Similarities**
- Students receive services based on academic strengths / interests
- Students are challenged and engaged to develop full academic potential
- Rigorous curriculum and instruction
- Offers appropriate level of service according to needs of students
- POS and SOLs are extended and enriched based on the Parallel Curriculum Model
- More focus on problem-based learning and concept-based instruction
- Emphasis on demonstrating and developing critical and creative thinking skills
- Ongoing professional development for teachers

**Honors classes**
- Students & parents/guardians self-select enrollment
- Students enroll based on strength / interest / potential
- Students served in one or more subject areas
- Offered in all schools
- POS and SOL extension lessons provide Ascending Levels of Intellectual Demand
- Increased focus on depth and complexity in specific subjects
- Emphasis on development of emerging autonomy and independence

For more details, contact your middle school director of student services. For a complete description of advanced academic program services, visit http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap.
Advanced Academic Center Program

- Full-time academic placement in English, Social Studies and Science for highly gifted students found eligible through a central screening process
- Algebra 1 HN placement is done according to Mathematics test results
- AAP focuses on differentiation of Content, Process, and Products
Advanced Academic Center Program

- Follows FCPS Program of Studies
- Is differentiated in depth, breadth, and pace of instruction
- Emphasizes critical thinking and analysis
- Independent research skills development
- Challenging learning experiences constructed around students' interests, learning styles, and preferred modes of expression
- Incorporates advanced reading materials
Differentiation through Content

- Use of advanced reading, resource, and research materials

- Content is presented with greater levels of depth, breadth, complexity, or abstractness through levels of questioning, problem-based learning, and instruction that focuses on “big ideas”
Science

Exploring Living Things
General Education Lesson for Science

Students explore the basic organelles in cells, compare/contrast plant and animal cells, and understand how multi-celled organisms are organized.
Students explore all of the above with additional organelles that may be added. Challenge level is increased further by having students create an analogy of the cell and its structures. Several examples may be given in class if needed as a scaffold, and students will be expected to explain the relationship between their analogy and the cell.
Students explore all of the above and explain their analogy in terms of a system. A non-fiction reading that correlates to the topic may be used (Phineas Gage, for example) to further challenge students to make connections between historical developments in technology and the impact they have on quality of life. Students may be asked to make inferences as to how cells could function if some structures were missing.
Differentiation through Products

- Offer assignments that are more open-ended or ambiguous in nature
- Assign products that require greater levels of independence or offer a choice to students
- Assess work with indicators of quality that model the work of experts in the field
Shakespeare

Literature and Life
In the Nonfiction Unit, students study internal and external text structures. Teacher guides and coaches students’ identification of organizational patterns.

For a final project, students will make a poster that includes internal and external text structures.
In the Nonfiction Unit, students study internal and external text structures. Teacher defines and explains organizational patterns.

For a final project, students will create a full length piece of writing that includes all internal text structures. They will also create a visual guide to illustrate external text structures.
Differentiation for AAP Center Class

- In the Nonfiction Unit, students study internal and external text structures. Teacher defines and explains organizational patterns. Students explore high level reading passages and work in small groups to analyze text structures.

- For a final group project, students will conduct research through the use of a wiki on a topic of their choosing.
Differentiation through Process

- Accelerate the pace of teaching and learning
- Compact basic knowledge and skills in core content areas
- Apply ideas and skills to contexts that are unfamiliar and dissimilar from those explored in class
- Provide opportunities to make choices to explore deeper understandings and apply new knowledge
Social Studies-History

Reconstruction to 1980
General Education Lesson

Students research an American who had an impact on American History during the time frame of reconstruction to 1980. From the research they use the writing process to generate a basic essay.
Students will create a comparison/contrast extension. Choose a present day person and compare their actions to your subject, and their impact on modern America.
As part of the extension to this work students will choose a modern issue confronting our country today and elaborate how their American would handle the situation. Some examples may be: terrorism, economy, foreign and domestic policies, etc.
Math

Math 7 Honors and Algebra 1 Honors each have a specific program of studies that outlines academic objectives for the course.

- Placement in Algebra I Honors is based on county-wide selection criteria.
Placement in Algebra I HN

Rising 7th grade students will be placed in **Algebra Honors** based on **all** the following:

- Successfully completing Advanced Mathematics (Compacted or a year-long accelerated program in 6th grade).

- A score at or above the 91 percentile on the Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test.

- A score at or above 500 on the Virginia Standards of Learning grade 7 mathematics test.
Middle School Structure

AAP Center students are placed on a team at 7th and 8th grade level that consists of AAP Center students and general education students.
7th Grade Required Classes

- English/Language Arts
- U.S. History, 1865-Present
- Investigations in Environmental Science
  - AAP students work with advanced academic peers.
- Math 7/Math 7 Honors/Algebra 1 Honors
  - Students placed by skill level.
- Physical and Health Education
  - AAP students take HPE with all students.
We offer a number of different semester and elective course offerings.

Students choose electives based on interest.

AAP students take elective classes with all students.
Our AAP Center Teachers

- Highly qualified in content area
- Have completed or working towards AAP endorsement
- Collaborate with AAP teachers from other center programs
Jackson’s AAP Center Program

- One of 12 AAP Centers in FCPS, established 7 year program

- Current enrollment for 2014-2015:
  - 156 7th graders; 170 8th graders

- Projected for next year:
  - 206 7th graders; 165 8th graders

- Draw from 4 elementary school AAP centers and 12 other elementary schools

- Prepares students for AP/IB/TJHSST
Jackson Highlights

- Rich multicultural environment reflecting our global community
  - 62 Countries Represented
  - 49 Languages Spoken

- On-site Honors Geometry for 8th Graders

- On-line Algebra II HN unless enrollment warrants on-site course
Jackson Student Accomplishments

- 9 students selected for District 10 Honors Orchestra
- 5 students selected for District 10 Honors Jazz Band
- 11 students selected for District 10 Honors Concert Band
- 16 students selected for District 10 Honors Choir
- 9 students selected to State Honors Choir
Jackson Student Accomplishments

- *We the People* Team - 2015 District Champions and Virginia State Finalists
- *AMC 8* - 2 students scored top 1% nationally
  - 7 students scored top 5% nationally
Parent of former student writes:

“This program has been such a unique, motivating and challenging program. This was the best decision we made for our daughter as far as going into middle school. Everyone on staff has been so kind and helpful, and the teachers are fabulous!

I could not have imagined that the transition to middle school would have been so smooth, but it has been and I am so thankful for the AAP Center.”
Still have questions?

Please stop by the cafeteria after this session for a “Meet and Greet Showcase” with teachers and featured student work!