The noblest pleasure is the joy of understanding.

-Leonardo daVinci
Poplar Tree’s Advanced Academics Program Level IV
What are Level IV Services?

FCPS is committed to providing challenging learning experiences for all learners that build on individual strengths and optimize academic potential. In order to meet the needs and develop the potential of advanced learners, FCPS provides a continuum of advanced academic services.
A student receiving Advanced Academic services needs a learning environment that...

- Fosters continuous intellectual growth
- Stimulates the imagination
- Promotes inquiry
- Encourages risk-taking
- Nurtures their unique social-emotional needs
Social Goals for the Level IV Program

Develop social skills which enable students to:

- Build their leadership skills
- Build their interpersonal skills
- Increase their ability to effectively relate to others in a variety of situations
In the 21st century, the true test of rigor is for students to be able to look at material they’ve never seen before and know what to do with it.
How is Learning Differentiated?

- **Content**
- **Process**
- **Product**
Overview of the Level IV Advanced Academic Program

- 28 center schools and 53 Local Level IV schools
- Provide mastery, enrichment, and extension of core curriculum
- Differentiated in depth, breadth, and pace of instruction
- A strong emphasis on critical and creative thinking, and problem-solving
- Differentiated curriculum and instruction in English, Social Studies, Mathematics, and Science
- Mathematics is accelerated by one grade level
- Ongoing opportunities for reflection and self-assessment
# Extension of the Core Curriculum

For 3rd-6th grades
Aligned with progress report standards
Connected to AAP curriculum resources
Located on the website:

http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/resourcescurr.shtml

## Language Arts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3rd Grade POS</th>
<th>AAP 3rd Grade Extensions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Listens and speaks for specific purposes</td>
<td>• Participate in group discussions as a listener and a speaker in seminars</td>
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<tr>
<td>Listen attentively by making eye contact, facing the speaker, etc.</td>
<td>• Ask clarifying questions and take notes when listening to a speaker</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Develop listening/oral communication skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ask, respond to questions from teachers, other group members</td>
<td>• Participate in group discussions as a listener and a speaker in seminars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explain what has been learned</td>
<td>• Understand and encapsulate the speaker’s main points</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Articulate understanding of a reading to a partner.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
How is the AAP Curriculum Different

Concept-Based Instruction
- “Big Ideas” e.g. change, systems, conflict

Problem-Based Learning
- Real world
- Structured and controlled by teacher but student driven

Students Working as Experts in the Field
- Evidence to support reasoning
- Research
- Scientific reasoning

Problem Solving and Competitions
- Mathematics problem-solving competitions
- Science investigations
Level IV: Connecting it all Together

- Extensions of the POS
- Progress Report Connections
- Curriculum Framework for AAP
- Parent Resources
AAP Level IV Curriculum Guides

Guides are updated every year by Level IV teachers.

All Level IV teachers have access to the guides.

- Social Emotional Needs of Advanced Learners
- Fostering a positive classroom
- Curriculum Framework
- Critical and Creative Thinking
- Assessments for Growth
- POS grade-level and AAP extensions
- Concept-based development
- Language Arts
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies
Language Arts- Essential Curriculum

William and Mary Language Arts
- 3rd: Journeys and Destinations
- 4th: Literary Reflections or Patterns of Change
- 5th: Autobiographies
- 6th: Persuasion

Michael Clay Thompson- Vocabulary and Grammar
- 3rd: Building Language & Grammar Island
- 4th: Caesar's English I & Grammar Town
- 5th: Caesar's English II & Grammar Voyage
- 6th: Word within a Word I & Magic Lens 1

Jacob’s Ladder
Reading Above
The Great Debate
Socratic Seminar
Mathematics - Essential Curriculum

3rd Grade
- Moli Stone
- Awesome Algebra
- What’s the Me in Measurement All About?
- Digging for Data

4th Grade
- Linking Multiplication and Division
- Working with Variables
- Getting into Shapes
- Representing and Interpreting Data

5th Grade
- Exploring Fractions
- Using Algebra to Analyze Change
- Funky Town - Proportional Reasoning and Similarity
- What are the Chances?

6th Grade
- Human Endeavors
Science - Essential Curriculum

William and Mary Science
- 3rd: Where’s the Beach?
- 4th: Electricity City
- 5th: Something Fishy
- 6th: Nuclear Energy Friend or Foe

Project Clarion - 3rd Grade
- Dig It
- Invitation to Invent
- What’s the Matter

JASON Project
- 4th - Monster Storms & Infinite Potential
- 5th - Tectonic Fury
- 6th - Monster Storms & Infinite Potential
William and Mary Social Studies Units

- **3rd:** Ancient Egypt; Ancient China
- **4th:** Building a New System: Colonial America 1607-1763; The World Turned Upside Down: The American Revolution
- **6th:** A House Divided? The Civil War: Its Causes and Effects; The Road to the White House: Electing the American President

The Dig- A simulation of the Archeological Reconstruction of a Vanished Civilization (5th Grade)

Document Based Questions

- **3rd & 5th:** Mini-Q in World History 1
- **4th & 6th:** Mini-Q in U.S. History 1
AAP Instruction

M3 Mentoring Mathematical Minds
Team Problem Solving

Word Study

Jacob's Ladder
Project Clarion
Socratic Seminar

Hands on Equations
Project Based Learning

STEM
Literature Circles
Simulations
Poplar Tree Panther Perks!

- Odyssey of the Mind
- Reflections Contest
- Global Spanish
- Strategies Lab
- Chess Club
- Writer’s Guild Club
- Adventure Tuesday
- Lego Engineering Club
- Fakespeare
- Scrabble
- Computer Coding Club
- Girls on the Run
- Spelling Bee
- Science Expo

Coming in 2015-2016: Math Club, Science Club, GEMS (Girls in Engineering, Math and Science), and Geography Bee
What can I do to support my child?

- Work with your child to identify strategies for improvement.
- Involve your child in the problem-solving process.
- If your child identifies an area of weakness or is struggling, help him/her establish a concrete plan for improvement.
- Follow up with your child, and help him/her evaluate the process and refine the solution if necessary.
- Regularly talk about things you have learned or challenges you have faced from childhood to adulthood.
- Reframe failures to setbacks and criticism to feedback.
- Emphasize effort/process rather than achievement/outcome.
Parent Resources

Advanced Academic Programs website:
http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/resourcescurr.shtml

National Association for the Gifted
http://www.nagc.org

Virginia Association for the Gifted
www.vagifted.org

Advanced Academic Level IV orientation booklet
Keeping the Home-School Connection Strong

Poplar Tree PTA
What we Believe is what we Achieve

...So SOAR!!!