Advanced Academics Program at Springfield Estates Elementary School

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) offers a continuum of advanced academic services for all students in grades K-12. Learning opportunities are designed to meet the unique learning profile of each advanced learner through a continuum of services designed to focus and engage the student in challenging learning experiences that develop higher-level thinking through enrichment, acceleration, and extensions of the Program of Studies (POS). Classroom teachers, administrators, and Advanced Academic Resource Teachers (AARTs) collaborate to deliver the various levels of service.

For further information see the FCPS Advanced Academics website at: http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/index.shtml

Advanced Academics Resource Teacher

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The Advanced Academics Resource Teacher (AART) coordinates the screening and identification of students for advanced academic services, collaborates with teachers to provide differentiated instruction, and provides direct school-based services for identified students. The AART can explain how the program works and answer specific questions about screening procedures and the delivery of services at your local school. The AART serves all children at the school by providing model lessons in Critical and Creative Thinking and working with the classroom teachers to extend and enrich the Program of Studies (POS).

Advanced Academics Program Overview

Springfield Estates implements the FCPS goal of providing a continuum of AAP services at varying levels depending on student needs. The AART provides Level I AAP services for all students by conducting Critical and Creative Thinking lessons for all classes at SEES. In addition, Springfield Estate’s Strategies Lab has activities chosen to promote higher order problem solving skills and to engage students in specific habits of the mind, such as perseverance and persistence.

Students with specific academic strengths who have been found eligible for Level II AAP services are provided additional challenge in the classroom through lessons and resources that extend and enrich the general education curriculum.
**Young Scholars** is designed to find and nurture advanced academic potential in students from historically underrepresented populations and who, without advocates, affirmation and access, are less likely to pursue advanced levels of learning on their own. At Springfield Estates, the AART provides enrichment activities for YS students and classroom teachers ensure that these students are given opportunities for challenging learning experiences which allow them to question, explore, and investigate content and ideas in engaging ways.

Students in grades 3-6 who have been found eligible for part time Level III AAP services are provided direct instruction on a regular basis in one or more areas of their academic strength. Students are challenged through models and strategies designed to extend and enrich the POS in the four core subject areas.

Students found eligible for placement in a full-time Advanced Academic Program, Level IV through a central selection process receive a highly challenging instructional program in the four core subject areas. The Level IV program is designed to meet the needs of advanced learners with a strong emphasis on higher level thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making. Students have ongoing opportunities for reflection and self-assessment that develop an understanding of the characteristics, demands, and responsibilities of advanced intellectual development.

**Advanced Academics Level IV Team**

At Springfield Estates students found eligible for the full-time Advanced Academic Program (Level IV) receive challenging instruction in the four core subject areas by the following Advanced Academics classroom teachers:

**3rd Grade AAP Teachers:**

Allison Donnelly
Victoria Nutley
Jane Rollin

**4th Grade AAP Teachers:**

Julia Clark
Maureen Mayer
Leslie Miller
Debra Smutny

**5th Grade AAP Teachers:**

Nick Keber
Sample School AAP Web Page

Kimberly Lanning
Lynda Maguire
Dennis Stephens
Megan Vismara

6th Grade AAP Teachers:
Tara Belle
Sandra Brody
Emma Sunseri
Matthew Tullius

Important Links

FCPS Video: Continuum of Advanced Academic Services
http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/column/videos.shtml

Thinking Strategies:
http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/pdfs/ThinkingStrategiesataGlance.pdf

Article: Center Identification Process
http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/column/columnidentification.shtml

Testing and Identification Timelines
http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/timeline.shtml

Forms and Parent Information Packet
http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/forms.shtml

Enrichment Opportunities
http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/enrichment.shtml

Virginia Association for the Gifted (VAG)
http://www.vagifted.org/

Springfield Estates AAP Course on Blackboard 24/7
http://fcps.blackboard.com/