

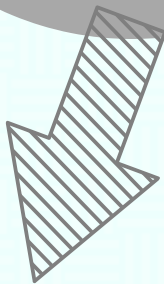
**Do you have questions like these?**

**There are resources for parents of advanced and gifted learners!**

Come join a community of parents. The GT CAC (Citizens Advisory Committee for Gifted and Talented Education) is here for you, working alongside BCPS. We meet the first Wednesday of every month from September through June. Check out our schedule of informational sessions and advocacy on our website!

And, check out the Office of Advanced Academics.

Visit their website at <https://tinyurl.com/ydgd4epu>, call their office at 443-809-4330, or email Wade Kerns, Coordinator of Advanced Academics at [wkerns@bcps.org](mailto:wkerns@bcps.org)



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**Some common characteristics of advanced learners**

from "A Parent's Guide to Gifted Education" by James Webb, Janet Gore, Edward Amend, and Arlene DeVries, 2007.

- Strong verbal abilities
- Unusually good memory
- Intense curiosity
- Interest in experimenting
- Wide range of interests
- Passionate imagination and creativity
- Remarkable sense of humor
- Longer attention span
- Desire for reason and understanding
- Complex thinking
- Sensitivity
- Intensity
- Concern with social or political problems or injustices
- Daydreaming

Note: Not all advanced learners display these characteristics in the same way or to the same degree.

## What is Advanced Academics?

All the differentiated programs and services provided to advanced and high potential learners in grades K-12 that are designed to meet the specific needs of these learners. Educational disability does not preclude student participation.

See governing documents for AA/GT education at BCPS Board of Education Policy 6401 at <https://tinyurl.com/y7bl8lv8> and Rule 6401 at <https://tinyurl.com/ycx5ljt>

## Advanced Academics includes:

- Advanced, extended, and/or enriched content, strategies, and products (K-5)
- Gifted and talented and advanced academic courses (6-12)
- International Baccalaureate (IB) classes at some schools
- Advanced Placement (AP) courses
- Dual-enrollment courses
- Grade- or subject-level acceleration

## Advanced Academics K-12

➔ K-5: Throughout elementary school, teachers look for demonstrations of advanced learning capabilities. They look at your child's work, assessments your child takes, talk with other teachers, and listen to your thoughts. Options include an enriched or accelerated curriculum, grade level advancement in mathematics (for example, moving from Grade 1 to Grade 2 in math), or whole grade acceleration (for example, moving from Grade 3 to Grade 4 in all subjects).

➔ Grade 3: Each school's review and referral team, made up of a group of teachers and administrators, go through a universal screening process for every third-grade student. They look analytically at things like grades, assessments, and learning characteristics. This process determines if a child is recommended for initial placement into Advanced 4 Mathematics and also looks at correct placement for the ELA reading group. If parents disagree with a placement, there is an appeals process that can be discussed with the school. Forms can be found on the Advanced Academic resources web page.

➔ Grade 5: The review and referral team screens every child in fifth grade to determine what courses will be recommended for middle school. These decisions are generally made by May so be sure to check in with your school to see what is being recommended for your child! Placement decisions by the school can be appealed.

For more specific information about Advanced Academics in elementary school, please visit the Elementary Advanced Academics page at <https://tinyurl.com/y8nmqge>.

➔ Middle School: Students are placed in GT/AA classes in English language arts, math, social studies, science, and, in some schools, art, based on the recommendation of the elementary school. Students may be placed in one or more GT/AA courses. During the school year you may request your child be considered for placement in a GT course by the school's review and referral team. Curriculum in GT/AA classes has greater depth, complexity, and abstraction than the standard curriculum and the materials used in the classroom may be different. Registration for high school classes happens around the end of the 2nd quarter of 8th grade. Your student will be asked for input, so look for communications from the school to know what is being recommended! If you disagree with the recommendations that have been made, you may appeal the decision.

➔ High School: Rising ninth graders are enrolled in courses recommended by the middle school with input from the student. Throughout high school, students can enroll in advanced courses in areas such as English, math, social studies, science, world languages, performing/visual arts, and technology education. Options include GT/AA classes, Advanced Placement (AP) classes, online classes, and dual credit (college) classes. Students can also enroll in CTE (Career and Technical Education) courses if they are offered. Students register for courses for the following school year in December or January, so watch for registration forms coming home from school to see what is being recommended!



At any point from K-12, students may be considered for subject- or grade-level acceleration. For more information about this process, talk to the school or visit the Office of Advanced Academics website.

## Communication is key!

Always talk with teachers first -- they are there to help you! Every school has an Advanced Academics facilitator who can also help you. Go to the BCPS Advanced Academics resources page to find the name of your school's facilitator:  
<https://tinyurl.com/ycosex5x>

Additional resources include:

\* Maryland State Department of Education GT page:  
<https://tinyurl.com/ycmvoc42>

\* National Association of Gifted Children:  
<https://www.nagc.org/>

\* SENG (Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted):  
<http://sengifted.org/>

\* MCGATE:  
<http://mcgate.org/>