

PROGRAM FOR HIGH ABILITY LEARNERS

Mission Statement:

Through cooperation of students, staff, family, and community, our mission is to offer everyone educational opportunities to excel and become responsible citizens in an ever-changing world.

Philosophy and Strategies

1. High ability learners will be identified.
2. High ability learners will be challenged in academic and extra curricular activities.
3. High ability learners will experience alternative learning opportunities, based upon their strengths and interest areas.
4. High ability learners will develop and demonstrate self-motivation and self management skills.
5. High ability learners will utilize school, family, and community resources.

Definition of High Ability Learner

We define high ability learner youth as young people who consistently exhibit one or more of the following:

1. Elements of creativity
2. A measured high mental ability, utilizing his/her levels of abstract thinking
3. A measured high achievement in all or specific areas
4. Special talents
5. Skills in leadership of people and management of resources toward a specific goal.

Goals, Objectives, & Strategies

High ability learners will:

1. Explore educational alternatives to learning;
2. Be challenged in academic and extra curricular activities, helping them to set and meet personal goals;
3. Have the opportunity to receive dual college and high school credit;
4. Develop career/college-planning skills;
5. Develop job shadowing/mentoring experiences;
6. Develop communication and technology skills as related to their regular educational experiences at Pleasanton Public Schools; and
7. Have the opportunity to develop service/learning projects in the school and community.

Identification Process

The identification process for high ability education at Pleasanton Public Schools will require the following identifying criteria:

1. The student exhibits high levels of self-responsibility, has a desire to achieve and is task motivated.

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

2. The student meets three out of the following four requirements:
 - A. Achievement test scores of 95% and above percentiles in specific sub test scores or on the total battery.
 - B. Teacher or parent recommendation based on observable, high ability learner characterizes.
 - C. Consistent, past and present high-level classroom performance.
 - D. High quality products in class.

High Ability Programs, Services and Options

1. Whole Class Enrichment. All students will be included in such programs.
2. Enrichment Centers.
 - A. Students will participate in interest/ability group projects.
 - B. A mini enrichment center/learning center will be available for student use in the classroom.
 - C. Students will participate in formal academic and or extra curricular competitions with other schools. These activities could include: ESU 10 Academic Quiz Bowl, Science Olympiad, Math Fun Day, Future Problem Solvers, Geography Bee, Inter High Day, U.S. Academic Decathlon, Knowledge Master, Leadership Workshops, and Conferences, or Advanced Curriculum Classes.
3. Individualized student centered projects.
 - A. Teacher and student will collaborate to determine appropriate and challenging curriculum. Possibilities include:
 - a) Enrichment activities based on student interest
 - b) Research in or expansion of current areas of study
 - c) Acceleration in a specific subject material
 - d) Optional activities to fit student needs and interests
 - e) Written or oral reports: demonstrations: art, music, or computer projects; field trip; communications project; community service learning project; futuristic planning project.
 - B. Time will be created for projects by compacting the curriculum.
 - C. Student will write a plan/contract for the project.
 - D. Student will continue to demonstrate mastery and knowledge of regular curriculum and complete assignments with a predetermined % of accuracy to remain in the high ability program. This may not apply if a student is working on a totally differentiated curriculum.
 - E. Student will receive a certificate for completion of a predetermined number of projects.
 - F. Student will utilize family, school, and community resources.
 - G. Student will experience career exploration through job shadowing.
 - H. Student will receive specialized counseling based on student need and interest.

