

## **Academic Resource Answers to Commonly Asked Questions**

Over the years, people have asked a variety of questions about what Northville Public Schools (NPS) offers for students who qualify for gifted learning options. The questions in this section are a compilation of the most frequently asked questions.

### **Middle School**

**1. Why did Northville Public Schools (NPS) choose to offer these arrangements?**

These organizational styles are arrangements recommended to facilitate differentiation of the curriculum. This was a recommendation partially from the Citizen-Staff Advisory Committee in 1987. This group believed that the needs of the gifted students differ from others, primarily in degree and dimension, and recommended that all students who qualify for gifted learning options have opportunities to be grouped together.

**2. What is the advanced program in both middle schools?**

The Academic Resource (AR) class meets for one period every day during the Academic Enrichment hour and replaces the enrichment class. AR allows students who qualify to work together and mentally stimulate each other. Students participate in whole class work, cooperative learning groups and individual studies. Subject topics are derived from core curriculum and student interests. Students must maintain a minimum grade point average of B- to stay in the class.

**3. How are students admitted into the AR program?**

Students who have already been enrolled in a gifted program had to qualify for that program based at least in part on test scores. Northville Public Schools recognizes this achievement. Therefore, students who were currently enrolled in elementary ALPS automatically qualify for AR; and those who were previously enrolled in a gifted program in their former district are considered for AR depending upon space availability.

All other students are held to the same standard and must qualify based upon current test scores and classroom performance and demonstrate the need for additional programming.

**4. How is the curriculum differentiated in AR?**

In the Academic Resource (AR) class, instruction focuses on projects that develop higher order thinking skills, problem-solving, interpretation of material, divergent thinking, independent study, and research skills. It is a cross-curricular class that combines language arts, science, and social studies topics with various themes. The AR class substitutes the Academic Enrichment class, and extends learning in the core classes (ELA, science or social studies) in a way that is appropriate to students who qualify for this class option.

**5. Are students reevaluated to remain in the AR program?**

Once a student qualifies for AR and accepts the placement, the student remains in the program. The appropriateness of the placement is always being evaluated by teachers and parents. Students must minimally maintain a B- average to remain in the class. Students who do not maintain this average are placed on probation for one quarter and reevaluated at the end of the quarter to determine academic success. The parent and teacher should discuss any concerns in order to help the student be more successful. If the student continues to fall below a B- for a second quarter, that student is exited from the program with consideration given to scheduling and time of year. Note: the quarters do not have to be sequential and can occur in

different years. Students who are exited from the program enroll in Academic Enrichment courses and receive the same quality education as their peers.

**6. What if a parent decides to remove their child from the AR program during the year?**

This will be considered a year-long placement. AR staff and administration anticipate open communication between staff and parents to work out any possible concerns. At the end of the year, if a parent still wants to exit his/her student from AR, they must notify the building principal and counselor.

**7. What will happen if a parent chooses not to have the child participate in AR?**

The child will be placed in the Academic Enrichment classes and will receive the same fine educational opportunities offered to Northville students. These Academic Enrichment classes extend learning in the core curricular areas of English, math, science, and social studies.

**8. What has been the evaluation of the AR classroom over the past years?**

Parents and students give the program high marks. Rarely does a parent remove his/her student from the program.

**9. How can parents be involved?**

Parents can read the newsletters or contact the school to learn how they can support or participate in various programs/activities. Parents can also check the school website.

In addition, there is an Advisory Council for the Academically Talented (ACAT). It is a committee of Northville staff and parents that focuses on the needs of academically talented learners, provides a ListServ, and support base for other parents. To join the ACAT ListServ or learn more about the committee, log on the district webpage at [www.northville.k12.mi.us](http://www.northville.k12.mi.us).

**10. Where is there additional information concerning Northville Public Schools' gifted/advanced program at the middle school level?**

If, after reading this material, you have any questions about the program, please feel free to contact the Advanced Programming Office Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Sue Hanley (248-344-8467 or [hanleysu@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:hanleysu@northville.k12.mi.us)) or Mrs. Janice Henderson, Curriculum Coordinator, (248-344-8447 or [henderja@northville.k12.mi.us](mailto:henderja@northville.k12.mi.us)) in the Office of Instruction, or view the district website at [www.northville.k12.mi.us](http://www.northville.k12.mi.us).