



# Community Referrals for Advanced Academic Services

Highly Capable Services are designed for students who perform or show potential for performing at significantly advanced academic levels when compared with others of their age, experiences, or environments. Successful candidates are often independent learners who thrive when given progressively challenging opportunities and utilize advanced problem-solving skills. Gifted Learners engage in-depth study and presentation of curriculum matched to their demonstrated skills and capabilities.

A highly capable student **regularly** exhibits the following characteristics:

- a capacity to learn with unusual depth of understanding, retains, what has been learned, and transfers learning to new situations;
- a capacity and willingness to deal with increasing levels of abstraction and complexity earlier than their chronological peers;
- an ability to learn quickly in their area(s) of intellectual strength and;
- a capacity for intense concentration and/or focus.

The indicators used for student identification by our district identification committee are:

- Surveys are sent to parents, staff, and students. Results are tallied, and comparisons made in terms of trends, areas needing focus, etc. This information is shared with staff and with the Advanced Academic Multidisciplinary Committee. It is kept on file.
- State testing data is reviewed, compiled and shared with staff and the HCP Advisory.
- Individual student data is monitored, documented, and preserved as indicators of growth

Students identified as highly capable qualify for services designed to meet their needs as a learner. These services are tied to grade level standards and provided within the school day. These services **might** include:

Early Entrance to Kindergarten  
Academic Enrichment  
Targeted Instruction  
Advanced/AP courses and Early College

Parents, teachers or other community members may nominate students. If you are interested, please follow these steps:

- Fill out the Parent Permission and Referral Form and the Teacher Referral Form.
- Return ALL completed forms to your child's school office. Review of testing is done monthly.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact:

Ellen Cavanaugh, Assistant Director of Student Support  
Yelm Community Schools  
360.458.6124  
ellen\_cavanaugh@ycs.wednet.edu



# Advanced Academic Services

Once a student qualifies for Advanced Academics they have services follow that student until high school graduation.

## If a Child qualifies:

- **Differentiation:** Grade K-5 students are served in the regular classroom through differentiation by the classroom teacher.
- **Advanced Grade Placement:** Some students in grades K-8 who qualify for highly capable services may receive accelerated subject placement in the general education program. Students may qualify for early entrance to Kindergarten or whole-grade acceleration.
- **Advanced Subject Placement:** Qualified math students might enroll in Pre-Algebra in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and progress through AP Calculus or AP Statistics in high school.
- **Independent Study:** Students contract to complete specific work or projects, usually under the direction of a mentor teacher.
- **Honors Classes:** Classes that offer greater depth, complexity and a faster pace.
- **Advanced Placement:** Formal curriculum developed by the College Board for which high school students can complete a course and take the exam for college credit.

## If a Child does not qualify:

- Parents or guardians **may** choose to file a written letter of appeal to the Office of Student Support within two weeks of receipt of this notification. Student continues with current placement through this process.



# Community Referral and Permission for Advanced Academic Services

<b>Student's Last Name</b>		<b>Middle</b>	<b>First</b>	
<b>Current School</b>	<b>School Year</b>	<b>Current Grade Level</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Male</b>	<b>Date of Birth</b>
			<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Female</b>	
<b>Parent/Guardian Name</b>		<b>Language Other than English?</b>	<b>Phone 1:</b>	
<b>Mailing Address</b>		<b>City/State</b>	<b>Phone 2:</b>	
<b>Name of Person Completing Form</b>		<b>Language Other than English?</b>	<b>How long have you known this child?</b>	
			<b>Years</b>	<b>Months</b>
<b>I am referring this student for: (check all that apply)</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>English Language Arts</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Mathematics</b>				

<b>Please rate this student on the following characteristics:</b>	<b>3 Usually</b>	<b>2 Sometimes</b>	<b>1 Seldom</b>
1. Unusual alertness, even in infancy			
2. Rapid learner; puts thoughts together quickly			
3. Excellent memory			
4. Unusually large vocabulary and complex sentence structure for age			
5. Advanced comprehension of word nuances, metaphors, and abstract ideas			
6. Enjoys solving problems, especially with numbers and puzzles			
7. Self-taught reading and writing skills as preschooler			
8. Deep, intense feelings and reactions			
9. Highly sensitive			
10. Thinking is abstract, complex, logical, and insightful			
11. Idealism and sense of justice at early age			
12. Concern with social and political issues and injustices			
13. Longer attention span with intense concentration			
14. Preoccupied with own thoughts-daydreamer			
15. Learns basic skills quickly and with little practice			
16. Asks probing questions			
17. Wide range of interests (or extreme focus in one area)			
18. Highly developed curiosity			
19. Interest in experimenting and doing things differently			
20. Puts ideas and things together that are not typical			
21. Keen and/or unusual sense of humor			
22. Desire to organize people/things through games or complex schemas			
23. Vivid imaginations (and imaginary playmates when in preschool)			

Reproduced from: L Webb, J., Gore, J., Amend, E., Devries, A. (2007) A parent's guide to gifted children.

**Please complete the back of this form**

