

Mission and Vision

We are life-long learners inspiring life-long learners.

MGA is committed to creating a community of life-long learners. Every day we cultivate critical thinkers through rigorous inquiry and authentic experience. Our overarching goal is to produce globally-minded citizens, who serve a cause greater than themselves.

Purpose

Children have many unique talents and abilities. The MGA Highly Able Program offers opportunities for students to further develop their abilities joyfully and creatively through the [International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme](#). Enrichment occurs in the classroom and through participation in special programs.

What does "Highly Able" mean?

The Maryland State Department of Education defines "highly able," or "gifted and talented" as "an elementary or secondary student having outstanding abilities in the area of general intellectual capabilities, specific academic aptitudes, or the creative, visual, or performing arts. A gifted and talented child needs different services beyond those normally provided by the regular school in order to develop his/her potential".

What is the procedure for identifying Highly Able students?

Students are identified for participation in the Highly Able Program in multiple ways:

- Student Performance
- Formal Assessment Scores:
iReady, Fountas & Pinnell reading assessment, PARCC, CogAT
- Teacher Nominations
- Parent Nominations
- Student Self-Nominations

Provision for Highly Able Students

In the Classroom

See these AACPS resources to find out how [Differentiated Instruction](#) helps meet the needs of all learners, including gifted students, in mixed-ability classrooms. MGA teachers routinely differentiate the [content, process, and products](#) of learning in their classrooms to meet students' needs.

When students demonstrate needs beyond what can be provided in the classroom setting, the Highly Able coordinator may work with them individually, or in small groups. This provision will be flexible, and will occur according to student need. Pull-out provision may include:

- Advanced Literacy Instruction/ Book Club
- Targeted Math Instruction
- Collaborative Inquiry-Based Projects
- Independent Student-Led Research Projects

