Meeting Overview

- Structure of High Ability Middle School Services
- High Ability Initial Identification Process
- Open Application Process
- Determination and Notification Process
- Timeline
- Questions
Structure of High Ability Middle School Services

All MCCSC middle schools offer:
- Self-contained ALPS classes
- High Ability Language Arts instruction
- Advanced math classes (Algebra and Geometry)

**Accelerated Learning Program for Students (ALPS)**
This program offers academically and intellectually identified high ability middle school students the opportunity to participate in an advanced block of classes (Science, English, and Social Studies) in both grades seven and eight.

**High Ability Language Arts**
This service offers students advanced instruction in only ELA for grades seven and eight.
Advanced Math (Algebra and Geometry)
Placement in advanced math is a separate identification process based on a student’s current math level and achievement. This process takes place in April/May.

Remainder of a Middle Schooler’s Day
Middle school high ability students are integrated into their grade-level’s lunch and additional classes to meet the curricular requirements of the State of Indiana (PE/health, arts, music, foreign language, technology, etc).
What’s the difference between high-ability and grade-level classes?

Middle School High Ability Classes Focus On:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Thinking Skills</th>
<th>Acceleration</th>
<th>Enriching Experiences</th>
<th>Social/Emotional Learning</th>
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<tr>
<td>● conceptual thinking</td>
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<td>● creative and critical thinking</td>
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<td>● metacognition</td>
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<td>● advanced reading and vocabulary</td>
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<td>● quickened pace of instruction</td>
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<td>● beyond grade level standards</td>
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<td>● in-depth coverage</td>
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<td>● choice and authentic experiences</td>
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<td>● independent study</td>
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<td>● confidence and perfectionism</td>
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<td>● commitment, work completion, and time management</td>
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<tr>
<td>● citizenship</td>
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<td>● collaboration</td>
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How do high ability classes in Middle School affect course selection in High School?

While middle school ALPS courses and/or High Ability ELA courses are wonderful preparation for high school, they are not prerequisites for any high school honors or AP classes. High school students self-select their classes, following course selection requirements.
The Indiana Code for High Ability Students requires that school districts use a variety of criteria to identify students for high ability services, including quantitative measures of both ability and achievement and qualitative checklists of high ability behavior and student potential.

- **Norm-referenced measure of ability/potential:**
  - InView (*taken in 3rd and 6th grade*)

- **Norm-referenced adaptive measure of achievement/performance:**
  - NWEA (*taken 2 or 3 times each year, grades 3-10*)

- **Qualitative/observational measure of gifted characteristics:**
  - Renzulli High Ability Behavior Characteristics
  - TOPS Folders (Teachers Observation of Potential in Students)
Initial Identification

- **ALPS**: Based on InView or NWEA assessment scores, students scoring in the 9\(^{th}\) **stanine**, 96-99% on verbal/reading and nonverbal/math subtests, will be sent a letter offering placement in the middle school ALPS program.

- **High Ability ELA**: Students only scoring in the 9\(^{th}\) stanine, 96-99%, on verbal/reading subtests will be offered middle school high ability instruction in English/Language Arts.

- Qualifying scores for initial identification may be from performance on the InView or NWEA or a combination of both.

- No application materials are required for students invited to participate in high ability services in this initial identification process.
Open Identification/Application

- If your student is not initially identified based on test scores, you may appeal that decision by submitting an application for ALPS or High Ability ELA. Families interested in this opportunity should have a conversation with their child’s teacher and/or principal prior to submitting your application.

- ANY STUDENT MAY APPLY FOR MCCSC HIGH ABILITY SERVICES DURING THIS OPEN APPLICATION PERIOD (ENDING FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2024).

- If a student was invited to the High Ability ELA class but wants to apply for the full ALPS program (advanced English, Science, and Social Studies classes), they will appeal this decision by applying for ALPS during this open application period.
Middle School High Ability Identification Flowchart

All Students Currently in 6th Grade

Initial Identification mailed on Jan. 23, 2024

- Based on test scores, some students **will not** receive mailed invites to ALPS or High ELA for 7th grade.
- Based on test scores, some students **will** receive mailed invites to ALPS or High ELA for 7th grade.

Open Applications due Feb. 9, 2024

- Students who were not initially identified can apply for ALPS/High ELA.
  *ALL STUDENTS CAN APPLY FOR ALPS/HIGH ELA!
- Students will be taking standard 7th grade classes.
- Students initially invited to only High ELA can apply for ALPS.
  *ALL STUDENTS CAN APPLY FOR ALPS!
- Students accept invitation to ALPS.
Open Application Process

Portfolios are stored by the Department of High Ability Education for each student applicant. In addition to standardized test scores, the Coordinator of High Ability Education solicits the following to be included in the student’s portfolio:

**Applicant Provides:**
- Completed [Parent Referral Form](#) (includes Renzulli HA Behavior Characteristics)
- One example of the student’s writing that *the student selects*

**School Provides:**
- A copy of the student’s in class writing prompt
- Student NWEA MAP Report
- Teacher Referral Forms from the student’s sixth grade teacher(s) (includes Renzulli HA Behavior Characteristics and Teacher’s Observation of Potential in Students (*TOPS*))
- Copies of the student’s report card for first semester of grade six
Open Application Process

Application materials are due to the High Ability Office on or before Friday, February 9, 2024.

How applications may be submitted:

- electronically (msmith@mccsc.edu)
- by fax (812-330-7813), attention Adie Smith
- dropped off/mailed to:
  Adie Smith, High Ability Coordinator
  Fairview Elementary, 500 W. 7th St.
  Bloomington, IN 47404
- turned in at the student’s current elementary school
Determination and Notification Process

• Members of the Middle School Identification Committee will review applying student portfolios to identify students who display a need for middle school high ability services, including advanced English/Language Arts instruction and the middle school ALPS program.

• Notification of placement decisions will be mailed to parents and schools on Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

• ALL STUDENTS WHO HAVE APPLIED FOR HIGH ABILITY SERVICES WILL RECEIVE NOTIFICATION.

• Placement in advanced math classes is a separate identification process based on a student’s math level and achievement at their current school.
# MCCSC Middle School High Ability Education Identification 2023-2024

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<th>Task/Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<td><strong>InView Cognitive Abilities Assessment</strong> administered to all MCCSC sixth graders.</td>
<td>October 30 - November 4, 2023</td>
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| Middle School High Ability Services Family Information Meeting: Parents/guardians and students are invited to learn about the middle school high ability service options, identification procedures, and important timelines. | Monday, January 22, 2024  
Batchelor Middle School Auditorium, 6:30-7:30pm |
| Middle school initial identification high ability placement letters mailed to qualifying incoming 7th grade students, 9th stanine (96-99%) on InView or NWEA. The high ability service options include advanced English/Language Arts instruction and the middle school ALPS program. Advanced math services are a separate placement process and are based on student's current math level and achievement. Advanced math placement notifications will be sent in May. | Tuesday, January 23, 2024 |
| Deadline for submission of ALL incoming 7th grade high ability (ALPS) applications and initial placement appeals. This concludes the open identification period during which any student may apply for 7th grade high ability services. | Friday, February 9, 2024 |
| ID Committee review of incoming 7th grade high ability program (ALPS) applications. | February 12 - March 1, 2024 |
| 7th grade high ability notification letters mailed to applicants. | Tuesday, March 5, 2024 |
| Deadline for acceptance/decline to the 7th grade ALPS program. | Friday, March 22, 2024 |

Student portfolios will be received and maintained by: Adie Smith, Coordinator of High Ability Education, Fairview Elementary, 500 W. 7th Street, 47404  
Phone (812)330-7732, ext. 50750, Email msmith@mccsc.edu

*Application materials for incoming 8th graders are due Friday, April 26, 2024*
Other questions?

Information about MCCSC high ability services can be acquired by:

- contacting your child’s teacher/school
- browsing the MCCSC website at www.mccsc.edu (visit Academics - High Ability)
- contacting Adie Smith, High Ability Coordinator msmith@mccsc.edu or (812) 330-7732, ext 50750
Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

• What classes are included in the ALPS program?
The middle school ALPS program includes advanced English, Science, and Social Studies classes.

• Does my student have to apply for middle school high ability services?
Students who are initially identified for high ability services based on test scores do not need to apply. Notification letters will be mailed on January 23, 2024 to students who are initially identified for the MCCSC middle school ALPS program or HA/Adv ELA.

• When are applications/appeals for middle school high ability services due for students who did not automatically qualify?
Application materials for students applying/appealing for the middle school ALPS program or HA/Adv. ELA are due on or before Friday, February 9, 2024. You may send the application materials electronically (msmith@mccsc.edu), by fax (812 330-7813), or drop them off/mail them to the MCCSC Administration Building located at 315 E North Drive, 47401.
Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

• Where can I find the parent referral form for my student’s application?

A copy of the parent referral form can be found on the MCCSC website under the High Ability Department. Click on Academics - High Ability Resources, then click on the form. It is also linked HERE.

• How do I know my student’s application is complete and includes all of the required application materials?

The HA Coordinator will solicit all required application materials from the school and family in preparation for review from the HA Identification Committee.

• When will I be notified about my student’s application/appeal for middle school HA services?

Notification letters for all applicants will be mailed Tuesday, March 5, 2024.
Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

• **How do high ability classes in middle school affect course selection in high school?**

While middle school ALPS courses and/or High Ability ELA courses are wonderful preparation for high school, they are not prerequisites for any high school honors or AP classes. High school students self-select their classes.

• **When will middle school math placements be determined?**

The middle school math placement process is a separate identification process that will take place in April/May. All MCCSC middle schools offer Algebra and Geometry classes for identified high ability students. Advanced math placements are based on a student’s current math level and achievement.