Highly Able Middle School Student Action Plan  
Frederick County Public Schools

Rationale: Students in middle school exhibit diverse abilities and performance levels, requiring the implementation of curricular and instructional modifications. Some students perform at levels far beyond what is expected of the typical student. These students, called outliers, may constitute up to three percent of the total grade level county wide and are easily recognized through teacher observation and performance in the classroom. In any given year, a class may not have any students who are outliers and/or the outliers may have scheduled into the Highly Able Learner Cluster Group. In order to challenge an outlier whose schedule does not allow him/her to be placed in the HAL Cluster and help him/her reach their full potential, an action plan (see attached) should be prepared.

Implementation Plan:
1. Teacher identifies outliers who are not scheduled in the HAL cluster:
   a. Refers to NAGC Characteristics of Various Areas of Giftedness and FCPS Characteristics of Giftedness in Core Content Areas (See http://gtdifferentiation.sites.fcps.org)
   b. Observes student performance in the classroom
   c. Analyzes results on a variety of informal and formal assessments
   d. Observes student’s interactions with others

2. Enrichment Team (consisting of Administrator, Teacher, Enrichment Specialist, Advanced Academics Teacher Specialist, and others as needed) meets to discuss a plan for the highly able student.

3. Enrichment Specialist works with the Enrichment Team to develop the Highly Able Middle School Student Action Plan. (See attached.)

4. Enrichment Specialist distributes the final plan to the Enrichment Team.

5. Enrichment Specials contacts parent/guardian to review action plan prior to implementation.

6. Parent/guardian signs action plan prior to implementation.

7. Enrichment Specialist sends copy of signed action plan to the Office of Advance Academics.

8. Enrichment Specialist, teacher and other personnel, as noted, implement action plan.

9. Enrichment Team monitors student progress, consults with parent/guardian, and makes adaptations to the plan as needed.

Possible Action Plan Strategies:
- To maximize the performance of the highly able student, one or more of the following instructional approaches may be considered:
  - Extension of the Essential Curriculum, including implementation of learning centers and accelerating instruction beyond the student’s current grade level
  - Enrichment beyond the Essential Curriculum, such as developing and applying research skills, utilizing technology, and using problem solving and logical reasoning skills
  - Learning Activities Based on Student Interest, using differentiation strategies such as learning contracts, higher-level questioning, tiered assignments, and guided independent projects
- Multiple resources and the collaboration of personnel are required for successful implementation of the above action plan strategies, which can be accomplished through one or more of the following:
  - Flexible grouping
  - Resource support from Enrichment Specialist, Literacy Specialist, Media Specialist, Math Specialist, Advanced Academic Teacher Specialist, Coordinator for Minority Student Achievement, etc.
  - Support from mentors (parents, business/community members, older students, etc.).
**Research for Students**

*Available on the Advanced Academics link below at [http://gtdifferentiation.sites.fcps.org](http://gtdifferentiation.sites.fcps.org)*

- **Administer** an *Interest/Learning Profile* to find out what the student would like to research and then talk with the student about his/her top three choices.

- **Have** student **select** appropriate books/materials from media center with support from teacher and/or media specialist.

- **Help** student **design** questions to guide research or use research plan provided by Office of Advanced Academics.

- **Provide** *I Wonder* sheet or *Question Web* for students to guide them with writing additional research questions.

- **Explain** to the student how the *Independent Work Contract* should be followed for independent study and have student sign it if he/she agrees.

- **Show** student additional resources to help guide his/her research: *Student Progress Log* and or *Daily Independent Investigation Log.*

- **Meet** with student periodically to check progress.

- **Introduce** the *Product Idea Web* for research products.

- **Allow** student to enjoy learning new things!
Resources for Developing Middle School Highly Able Learner Plans in Language Arts

3. Socratic Seminar/Samoan Circle *
5. Debate *
8. Student writing contests and publishing opportunities (ex. NCTE Day on Writing: http://www.ncte.org/dayonwriting.), PTA Reflections, County-sponsored literacy activities).
9. Self-selection of literature and poetry at the appropriate reading and comprehension levels for the highly able reader.
10. Independent research projects based on area of interest, starting with interest inventory. *
11. Tiered literature assignments on the essential curriculum using higher level questioning strategies. *
12. Non-fiction texts based on student interest.
13. Independent learning contracts for Language Arts. *
15. Extension menus for Language Arts *
16. Tiered learning centers/stations to challenge highly able readers (http://www.blevinsenterprises.com/eTchrLearningStations.html)
17. Enrichment provided by the reading and/or media specialists.
18. Instructional software at appropriate level of challenge.
19. Service learning projects with literacy focus (ex. Letters to the editor, persuasive writing)

- These resources found on http://gtdifferentiation.sites.fcps.org
Sample Plan for Language Arts
Highly Able Middle School Student Action Plan
Frederick County Public School

Student’s Name Rhett Miller          Date of Birth 9/30/05          Student ID No. 814665
School Thurmont Middle               Grade 6 Teacher(s) Mrs. Smith
Parent/Guardian: Sally and Dave Miller     Telephone  717-334-6549
Email: sdmiller@gmail.com

Enrichment Team members in attendance to develop plan:

__X__Administrator  ___X__ Teacher  __X__EnrichmentSpecialist
__X__ Literacy Specialist  ____Math Specialist  _X___Guidance Counselor
__X__ Media Specialist  ___X_ Advanced Academics Teacher Specialist
____Other_____________

Content Area:  Language Arts   –   Mathematics   –   Science   –   Social Studies

ACTION PLAN for Academic Year: 2012-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Differentiated Strategies</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Who</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Jr. Great Books</td>
<td>Once/month</td>
<td>Enrichment Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Socratic Seminar</td>
<td>Once/month</td>
<td>Enrichment Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Advanced Writing Activities (Nancy Atwell’s Lessons that Change Writers)</td>
<td>Twice/month</td>
<td>Teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Debate mini-lesson</td>
<td>Once/semester</td>
<td>Enrichment Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Independent research project-topic of choice</td>
<td>Once/semester</td>
<td>Enrichment Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Literacy learning center</td>
<td>Once/week</td>
<td>Teacher</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I have been informed by school personnel regarding the above action plan. I understand this plan will be reviewed periodically.

Parent/Guardian Signature ___________________________________ Date __________________

Copies distributed to:  Parent, Teacher, Enrichment Specialist, Office of Advanced Academics
Resources for Developing Middle School Highly Able Learner Plans in Mathematics

☆ 10-Minute Critical-Thinking Activities for Algebra, Hope Martin (Walch)
☆ 10-Minute Critical-Thinking Activities for Math, Hope Martin (Walch)
☆ 10 Things All Future Mathematicians and Scientists Must Know, Edward Zaccaro (Hickory Grove Press)
☆ 25 Real Life Math Investigations That Will Astound Teachers and Students, Edward Zaccaro, (HGP)
☆ 50 Pre-Algebra Activities, Mary Lou Witherspoon and Ernest Woodward (Walch)
☆ Becoming A Problem Solving Genius, Edward Zaccaro (HGP)
☆ Challenge Math Projects (Interact Simulations)
☆ Extending the Challenge in Mathematics, Linda Jensen Sheffield (Corwin Press)
☆ Get It Together: Math Problems for Groups Grades 4-12, (Equals)
☆ Good Questions for Math Teaching, Lainie Schuster & Nancy Canavan Anderson (Math Solutions)
☆ Hard Math for Middle School: IMLEM Plus Edition, (Glenn Ellison)
☆ In the Balance: Algebra Logic Puzzles, Lou Kroner (Creative Publications)
☆ MathDetectiveB1: Higher-OrderThinking,Reading,WritinginMathematics; Terri Husted (CTC)
☆ Math Smart!: Over 220 Ready-to-Use Activities to Motivate & Challenge Students, Grades 6-12, Judith A. Muschla and Gary Robert Muschla (John Wiley & Sons)
☆ Problem-Solving Experiences in Algebra, Randall I. Charles (Addison-Wesley) ***
☆ Problem-Solving Experiences in Pre-Algebra, Randall I. Charles (Addison-Wesley) ***
☆ Problem-Solving Experiences in Geometry, Randall I. Charles (Addison-Wesley) ***
☆ Real World Algebra: Understanding the Power of Mathematics, Edward Zaccaro (HGP)
☆ Real-Life Math: Algebra, Walter Sherwood (Walch)
☆ Station Activities for Mathematics: Grade 6, Grade 7, Grade 8 (Walch)
☆ The Math Detective, Ernest Woodward (Walch)
☆ TopShelf Advanced Algebra, Katherine and Scott Robillard (Walch)

*** These are older resources. They may be in a closet in your school (very useful problem solving resources).

www.gtdifferentiation.sites.fcps.org to go to the Advanced Academics link 😊
http://mathbits.com/Caching/MathCacheDirectionsOpen.html caching treasure hunts
www.eduplace.com/math/hmm/g_6.html HMM support resources for gr 6
www.mathgoodies.com/games great collection of interactive games
www.mathprojects.com great activities; similar to AIMS
http://www.shodor.org/interactivate/activities/ more on-line games

\[(a + b)^2 = a^2 + 2ab + b^2\]
Sample Plan for Mathematics
Highly Able Middle School Student Action Plan
Frederick County Public School

Student’s Name Scarlett Miller                       Date of Birth 9/30/05                    Student ID No. 814664
School Thurmont Middle                             Grade 6 Teacher(s) Mrs. Smith
Parent/Guardian: Sally and Dave Miller     Telephone 717-334-6549
Email: sdmiller@gmail.com

Enrichment Team members in attendance to develop plan:

__X__Administrator  ___X_ Teacher  __X__EnrichmentSpecialist
____Literacy Specialist ___X_ Math Specialist X___Guidance Counselor
____Media Specialist   ___X_ Advanced Academics Teacher Specialist
  X__Other _ELL Teacher

Content Area : Language Arts  –  Mathematics  –  Science  –  Social Studies

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<th>When</th>
<th>Who</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Independent Research/ Problem Based Learning (enrichment topic of choice)</td>
<td>Twice/month</td>
<td>Enrichment Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Tiered assignments (e.g. FCPS HAL created resources, Edward Zaccaro’s resources, etc.)</td>
<td>As needed based on assessment (once/unit)</td>
<td>Teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Glencoe Webquests, math caching (mathbits.com), or other independent on-line interactives</td>
<td>Once/month</td>
<td>Teacher/Enrichment Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Encourage involvement in Math Counts, engineering club and/or Science Olympiad</td>
<td>Once/week</td>
<td>Math Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• As appropriate access HAL Questivity and H.O.T. Plan resources</td>
<td>As needed based on assessment</td>
<td>Teacher (consult with HAL math teacher and/or math specialist)</td>
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I have been informed by school personnel regarding the above action plan. I understand this plan will be reviewed periodically.

Parent/Guardian Signature_____________________________________ Date________________

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