



## MCCSC Elementary High Ability Services

The *Accelerated Learning Program for Students (ALPS)* offers academically and intellectually identified high ability fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students the opportunity to participate in academic activities and experiences that are uniquely designed to provide the challenge and rigor that they require. *ALPS* students complete grade-level requirements as well as appropriate enrichment and acceleration activities in all areas of the curriculum. *ALPS* students may have grade-level instruction with their age-level peers, including math, special area classes, and thematic IB curriculum. In their classes, *ALPS* students routinely engage in thematic reading and writing activities, are required to use critical thinking skills, and are encouraged to develop as independent, self-directed learners.

The MCCSC elementary school ***Accelerated Learning Program for Students (ALPS)*** serves the entire MCCSC district through *one self-contained class* at each grade level, 4-6, and is housed at University Elementary School. Transportation is provided.

The challenges of the *ALPS* program require both students and their families to make a commitment of time and energy. Students and families who elect to participate in the program agree to work together to ensure that the student:

- Produces work of high quality and submitted on time
- Actively and meaningfully participates in class
- Participates for a full academic year in the assigned placement
- A continuous desire to work at a level above and beyond what is explicitly taught in the classroom

***In addition to the self-contained ALPS classes in grades 4-6***, individual elementary schools offer program options for identified high ability students. These options may include grade level high ability cluster groups, subject grade skipping, flexible ability grouping for math and language arts, and inquiry-based instruction.

### **Consideration for Elementary School *ALPS* and Other High Ability Services**

Early in each academic year, the *In View* cognitive abilities assessment is administered to all third grade students in the MCCSC. Using the results of this test, qualifying students will take the NWEA math and/or reading achievement assessments. Based on *In View* and NWEA assessment scores, *students scoring in the 9<sup>th</sup> stanine, 96-99%, will be mailed an application packet inviting them to apply for possible placement in the elementary ALPS program.* If your student is not formally identified as general intellectual high ability and not sent an elementary *ALPS* application, they may also apply for placement in the *ALPS* program. Families interested in this opportunity should speak with their child's teachers or principal and may also contact the Office of High Ability Education. A specific identification/application timeline will be provided each school year.

### **Identification for Elementary School *ALPS***

A student's potential to benefit from participation in the *ALPS* program is assessed through a variety of measures which are collected in individual application portfolios. Portfolios are stored by the Office 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:**

- A completed Parent Referral Form;
- One example of the student's written work that he or she selects.

**School provides:**

- Student writing sample from in class writing prompt;
- Teacher Referral Form from the student's third grade teacher(s);
- Copies of report cards for first semester of third grade;
- NWEA Student Report

**Selection of Elementary School ALPS Students**

Members of the Elementary Identification Committee review each student portfolio to identify students who are most likely to benefit from participation in the *ALPS* program in elementary school. Participation in the elementary *ALPS* program requires that a student be formally identified as general intellectual high ability by the identification committee. Members of the identification committee are experienced and licensed in gifted/talented education. ***Historically, students placed in the elementary ALPS self-contained classes have achievement and cognitive verbal and nonverbal test scores in the 9<sup>th</sup> stanine, 96-99 percentiles.***

***In addition to the self-contained ALPS classes in grades 4-6,*** individual elementary schools offer program options for identified high ability students. These options may include grade level high ability cluster groups, subject grade skipping, flexible ability grouping for math and language arts, and inquiry-based instruction.

**A timeline for the elementary high ability identification process is provided each school year and will include parent meeting dates, the deadline for submission of application materials, and deadline for submitting appeals of placement recommendations.**

**Notification of placement decisions will be sent to parents and schools.** You may send the application materials electronically ([kwilliam@mccsc.edu](mailto:kwilliam@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.

**Alternative Admission to Elementary School ALPS**

Elementary school students who are new to the MCCSC or those who did not apply, did not qualify, or opted not to accept an invitation to the *ALPS* program at the end of third grade can submit a portfolio for review by the Identification Committee during their fourth and fifth grade years. Alternative admission applications are considered by the Identification Committee at the end of the current school year. Placement is offered based on the recommendations of the Identification Committee.