



**MONROE COUNTY**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION  
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## MCCSC Middle School High Ability Services

All MCCSC middle schools offer self-contained *ALPS* classes, advanced language arts instruction, and advanced math classes (algebra and geometry) for students formally identified as high ability. The *Accelerated Learning Program for Students (ALPS)* 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. Students in all high ability classes can expect an enriched and accelerated curriculum as well as assignments that are more rigorous. Placement in advanced math classes is a separate identification process based on a student's current math level and achievement that takes place in May. Middle school high ability students also enroll in additional classes to meet the curricular requirements of the State of Indiana.

### Identification for Middle School *ALPS* or High Ability Language Arts Classes

Early in each academic year, the *In View* cognitive abilities assessment is administered to all sixth 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%, on verbal/reading **and** nonverbal/math subtests will be sent a letter offering placement in the middle school *ALPS* program. Students only scoring in the 9<sup>th</sup> stanine, 96-99%, on verbal/reading subtests will be offered middle school high ability instruction in English/Language Arts. The qualifying score may be on the *In View* or NWEA or a combination of both. A specific identification/application timeline will be provided each school year, including appeals for placement recommendations. No application materials are required for students recommended for high ability services based on the test scores mentioned above, unless placement recommendations are being appealed.

The challenges of middle school high ability classes require both students and their families to make a commitment of time and energy. Students and families who elect to participate in high ability classes agree to work together to ensure that the student:

- Participates for a full academic year in the assigned placement
- Class work and assignments will be of **high quality and submitted on time**
- Class participation will be active and appropriate and students will **come prepared** to class
- A minimum grade of "B" will be maintained in each high ability class

If your student is not formally identified as general intellectual high ability (*ALPS* program) or high ability language arts based on the assessments listed above, they may **apply** (appeal) for placement in high ability English language arts classes and/or the middle school *ALPS* program. Families interested in this opportunity should speak with their child's teachers or principal or may also contact the Office of High Ability Education.

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:**

- Completed Parent Referral Form;
- One example of the student's writing that *he or she selects*.

**School Provides:**

- A copy of the student's writing prompt from the ISTEP+ test and ISTEP Student Report;
- Student NWEA Report;
- Teacher Referral Forms from the student's sixth grade teacher(s);
- Copies of report cards for first semester of grade six.

Members of the Middle School Identification Committee will review applying student portfolios to identify students who may benefit from participation in middle school high ability services, including advanced English/Language Arts instruction and the middle school *ALPS* program. Members of the identification committee are experienced and licensed in gifted/talented education. **A timeline for the middle school high ability identification process will include the deadline for submission of application materials as well as appeals for 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 Middle School *ALPS***

Middle 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 sixth grade can, at the recommendation of their counselors and teachers, submit a portfolio for review by the Identification Committee for their seventh and eighth grade years. Alternative admission applications are considered by the Identification Committee prior to the end of first semester of seventh or eighth grade or the end of seventh grade. Placement is offered based on the recommendations of the Identification Committee.

**Middle School Advanced Mathematics Classes**

The middle school math placement process is a separate identification process that will take place in 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. Students in the middle school algebra and geometry classes **may** elect to have the grades from these courses placed on their high school transcript and be included in the calculation of the high school grade-point average. Students will be given a high school credit option form to complete at the end of second semester of eighth grade.