What is Happening in the Advanced Learning Department?

Kindergarten and 1st Grade Identification for Services:

Our department is committed to determining which Kindergarten and 1st Grade students are in need of Advanced Learning services. Our instructional leaders have made personal connections with all district K and 1st grade teachers, and observed students learning in their classrooms.

All student assessment data and anecdotal data were presented to the MDT (Multi-Disciplinary Team). The team identified students who appear to be accelerating beyond grade level standards and sought parental permission to provide further assessments. Upon collection of data obtained from further assessments, the MDT completes a file review for each student. A file review of the newly collected data, along with existing data from the original MDT meeting, helps the MDT to deepen their understanding of each student’s academic achievement and determine if Advanced Learning services are needed. This secondary process will be completed by the end of February. Parents will be notified by US mail and schools/teachers will be notified via email. Student learning plans will be created for each student and sent to parents and teachers after parental permission to provide services is received.

Professional Development for Teachers of Advanced Learners:

Professional Development is a priority for our teachers with identified Advanced Learning students in their classes. Our instructional coaches do much of the training and will be conducting these professional learning sessions in January, February and March:

Teaching Self-Regulation to Secondary Students in Need of Advanced Learning Services

- Teachers will learn about the affective-behavioral-cognitive framework for thinking about self-regulation and how to help students engage in learning, build self-confidence, develop habits of thinking, set and manage goals, and reflect on their experiences.

Jacob’s Ladder Affective: Bridging Social & Emotional Learning with Jacob’s Ladder Reading Comprehension Program

- Teachers and other elementary professionals will be introduced to this new resource and given the opportunity to practice using it. The Jacob’s Ladder Affective Reading guide marries literature and social and emotional awareness.

Supporting Students in Need of Domain-specific Advanced Learning Services

- During this professional development session, teachers will develop their understanding of the social emotional and academic needs of advanced learners, specific to each academic domain (Literacy, Math, and Nonverbal). They will learn instructional strategies which will help them differentiate instruction for advanced learners.

Working Toward Equitable Identification: 3rd Grade Pilot: UPDATE

In an effort to ensure equitable educational opportunities for all students, the Advanced Learning Department is in the planning process to pilot the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) Screener to all 3rd graders at Lake Hills and Sherwood Forest Elementary Schools. The CogAT Screener measures a child’s overall reasoning ability, by focusing on verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal reasoning. As a result, educators can utilize the assessment score to learn more about a child’s current strengths and weaknesses and adapt instruction to meet his/her needs.

Results of this assessment will be utilized to support instruction as well as to assist the district in determining which students present a potential need for advanced learning services. Upon evaluation of the screening process, the Advanced Learning Department will determine if the assessment can be successfully rolled out to additional school sites and/or grade levels.

JANUARY 2019 Update: Initial screening will take place the first week of February. Cognitive screening data along with multiple achievement data points will be collected to determine if any students should move forward to further assessment. Further assessment will occur in late February. In mid-April, parents and teachers will be notified of students identified in need of Advanced Learning services.
Dates to Remember

JAN 25
End of 1st Semester

JAN 29 6:30 PM
Choosing a High School:
The Bellevue Gifted Alliance (BGA) will host a panel of high school students who will discuss how they chose the high school they attend, including Interlake’s Advanced Learning (AL) program, AL in the neighborhood/choice schools, and area private schools.

Location:
WISC Rainier Room (Wilburton Instructional Services Center)
12241 Main St.
Bellevue, WA 98005

FEB 4 7:00 to 8:30 PM
ANGST: RAISING AWARENESS AROUND ANXIETY
The Bellevue Schools Foundation, in partnership with Medina, Chinook and Odle-I-Connect and Chinook Middle School, is hosting a screening of an important film, Angst, created to start community conversations about ANXIETY and provide tools, resources and hope.

Screening #1
Monday, February 4, 2019; 7:00pm-8:30pm
Chinook Middle School
2001 98th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004
Children over age 10 are welcome to attend with an adult. Register Here.

Screening #2
Thursday, February 7, 2019, 12:00pm-1:00pm (lunch will be served at 11:30am, a panel will discuss afterward from 1:00 pm -1:30pm
WISC (Wilburton Instructional Services Center)
12241 Main St., Rainier Room
Bellevue, WA 98005
This film is not recommended for children under age ten. Register Here.

FEB 18-22
Mid-Winter Break; School Reopens Monday, February 25

Update on Advanced Learning Testing

Grades K-1
Students who demonstrated consistent performance two years beyond their grade level, in literacy and/or math, have been moved into file review, for further assessment. Communication for this phase of the identification process was sent out to parents via U.S. Mail on January 16, 2019. Only families of students moving into file review for further assessment receive notification.

Grades 1-11
- Tests results for BSD students, who tested in January or will be tested in February 2019, will be sent out via US Mail, in mid-April. This includes students that will test on the make-up day, which is Saturday, February 9.
- Tests results for BSD students, who tested on December 8, 2018, will be sent out via US Mail by mid-February.

Happening in Our Elementary Classrooms: Junior Great Books

The Great Books Foundation began in Chicago, an independent, nonprofit educational organization, over 60 years ago. Their mission was to help people think and share ideas. The Junior Great Books program (Grades K-12) combines high-quality literature, student-centered discussion, and activities that support reading comprehension, critical thinking, speaking and listening, and writing. The program provides outstanding classroom materials which are used in our Advanced Learning classrooms in grades 2-5.

The approach used with Junior Great Books text selections helps students get the most out of reading, while interacting with their teacher and classmates through the Shared Inquiry method. Shared Inquiry, coined by The Great Books Foundation, enables all students to explore the ideas, meaning, and information found in everything they read. Shared Inquiry focuses heavily on interpretive questions (versus factual and evaluative questions), has more than one plausible answer, and leads students to engaging and insightful conversations about any text. The process also helps students get to know one another on a deeper level and helps to establish mutual respect amongst peers.
RESOURCES

NAGC Parent Resources
National Association for Gifted Children

Hoagies’ Gifted Education Page
All-things-gifted site, full of resources, articles, books and links to help and support parents, teachers, and gifted children, alike.

Northwest Gifted Child Association
NWGCA provides presentations, seminars, resources, and events to help families approach parenting challenges specific to the needs of gifted and talented children.

Bellevue Gifted Alliance
A Program of the Bellevue PTSA Council