

High Ability Program

**Penn-Harris-Madison
School Corporation**

May 2024



Our Why

At PHM, we believe every child has unique strengths and potential. Our High Ability Program is designed to recognize and nurture those talents, ensuring that all students are challenged, engaged, and supported in their academic journey.



What is High Ability?

Some students show advanced strengths in reading, math, or problem-solving. PHM identifies these students as high ability and provides the right level of challenge to help them grow.

We call it enrichment, not acceleration—because the goal isn't just to go faster, but to go deeper. We want these students to explore big ideas, make connections, and engage with their learning.



Identification

- In Indiana, students can be identified as high ability based on achievement or aptitude. At PHM, we use nationally normed tests to assess math and ELA:
 - CogAT: Assesses reasoning and aptitude
 - NWEA: Measures academic achievement
- *Formal* identification years include:
 - Kindergarten, second grade, and fifth grade
- *Informal* identification years include:
 - First, third, and fourth grades
 - Assessment is based on teacher nominations & watchlists during these years.



How We Serve High Ability Students

Elementary Grades K-5

- **Cluster Grouping:**
 - High ability students are grouped together in one classroom per grade, allowing for differentiated instruction tailored to their needs.
- **Language Arts:**
 - Differentiated reading and writing instruction.
 - Use of off-grade level materials and resources
 - Junior Great Books, Scholastic Scope, & Scholastic Storyworks
- **Mathematics:**
 - Mastery of on-grade level skills
 - Introduction to off-grade level standards to challenge and extend learning
 - Additional resources: Beast Academy



How We Serve High Ability Students

Secondary Grades 6-12

- **Middle School**

- Accelerated Classes
- Enrichment activities and clubs

- **High School**

- Dual Credit Courses
- AP Courses
- Honors & Accelerated Courses
- Enrichment activities and clubs



Additional Enrichment Opportunities



Saturday Enrichment

Summer Enrichment Academies

Academic Competitions

Spell Bowl

- Saturday Enrichment & Summer Academies:
 - Provides additional learning experiences outside the regular school year.
- Elementary Spell Bowl:
 - Encourages spelling and vocabulary development through team competitions.
- Academic Competitions
 - Offers opportunities for students to participate in academic competitions and challenges.

Supporting Teachers

Professional Development

- Conferences:
 - Indiana Association of the Gifted
 - State Sponsored Workshops
- Professional Development Offerings:
 - Before and after schools sessions
 - HA Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
 - Shared resources



Partnering With Parents

We value the partnership between parents and educators in supporting high ability learners. Your involvement and feedback are essential in creating a nurturing and challenging environment for our students.



Stay Connected

For more information or to discuss your child's needs:

- Contact:
 - Your child's building principal
 - Mrs. Franca Peluso Mulhern
 - fpeluso@phm.k12.in.us
- Resources:
 - Visit the PHM High Ability page: www.phmschools.org/high-ability-enrichment





Thank you!

Together, we can ensure that every high ability student at PHM receives the support and challenges they need to thrive academically and personally.

