

MCCPTA Committee Work Plan 2007-08

Committee: Gifted Child Committee

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Committee Members (use reverse side if more space is needed):

Chairpersons of local PTA Gifted Child Committees

Vision

How does the work of your committee support the objects and mission of PTA and the focus of MCCPTA?

We support and speak on behalf of children who require accelerated and enriched instruction within Montgomery County Public Schools. We seek to raise awareness within the community of the special needs of all highly able learners to ensure that they are adequately identified and nurtured. We work to ensure MCPS systematically provides appropriate programming to address each child's unique gifts and talents in a climate of equity and fairness.

Goals

Give a summary statement of your committee's goals for this year. Consider how you will identify attainment.

1. Provide resources for parents in the county so that they may be empowered to help their children achieve at their full potential.
2. Identify effective acceleration/enrichment practices within Montgomery County Public Schools and share them with our school community.
3. Represent MCCPTA on the Accelerated and Enriched Instruction advisory board as it works to revise MCPS Policy IOA.
4. Advocate in support of the MCCPTA Resolution: Gifted and Talented Curriculum in Middle Schools which was approved on April 25, 2006.

Action Steps

What does your committee plan to do to achieve these goals? Include plans for meetings, mailings, etc., interaction with other MCCPTA committees, MCPS staff you may work with and in what capacity, other county, state or federal agencies, organizations you may contact as part of your action plan.

1. Recruit Gifted Child Committee Chairpersons (GT Liaisons) from every school in the county.
2. Develop a MCCPTA listserv for use by GT Liaisons to inform them of upcoming events or meetings, resources available and other items of interest.
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MCCPTAGiftedChildCommittee/>
3. Work with the Office of Accelerated and Enriched Curriculum to provide 4 informational/training meetings for members of the committee and other interested parents and members of the community. The meetings will cover the following topics
 - **GT Liaison Fall Training Session** - General GT information regarding global screening, advanced opportunities in reading and mathematics, along with accelerated/center/magnet programs available.
 - **Exploring the Writing Curriculum: How MCPS Prepares Students to be Exceptional Writers** –Get your questions answered about: What are the components of the writing curriculum? Are there extensions for advanced writers? What are the expectations regarding writing instruction for students in ES, MS and HS? See examples of student writing samples. Does the MCPS curriculum specify expectations regarding length of compositions at different grade levels? Are BCR's part of the writing curriculum?
 - **Beyond the GT Label: How Teachers Identify Students Who Need Above Grade Level Instruction** - How do teachers determine a students' need for above grade level programming? What assessments are used in reading? In Math? In other subjects? What is MAP-R? What do the assessment scores mean? When is it appropriate to skip grades in order to meet a students' academic needs? Is there ever a point at which acceleration is a bad thing for students?
 - **Differentiating Instruction: Best Practices in Grouping Strategies & Teacher Preparation** - What does differentiated instruction look like in Reading, Science and Social Studies at each school level? Give examples. Describe the grouping strategies used in ES and MS? What are the pros and cons of each? Does research support a particular strategy for gifted students? What are some practical strategies teachers can use for students who learn at different rates or bring prior knowledge to the classroom? How are teachers prepared/trained by MCPS to address the needs of gifted students and advanced learners? Is any training required? Does MCPS maintain information on what training each teacher has received?
4. Reach out to other groups within the community as well as other PTA committees and MCPS BOE to exchange ideas and build relationships that will allow us to effectively advocate for students in need GT services.

Expenses

We estimate that our expenses will be \$600 for copies, ICB Room Rental Fees and refreshments for our meetings.