



Able Learner Program Fact Sheet

The Able Learner Program (Ables) serves identified highly capable students in grades 2 through 5. Central Valley School District defines these students as those whose general mental development is significantly accelerated beyond that of their chronological peers. These students demonstrate remarkable potential of high performance in the areas of general intellectual ability, specific academic aptitude, creative or productive thinking, and peer leadership ability. Ables provides specialized services and activities in order to develop the student's capabilities to the fullest extent.

Selection

Any student residing in the Central Valley School District may be referred by a parent, teacher, or community member. All candidates are screened using multiple objective criteria that can include cognitive abilities assessment tests, district assessments, teacher and parent questionnaires, and other relevant data. Qualified candidates are offered admission to the program.

Program Staff

Alison Walton, Principal	558-6551	Abby Frandsen, Director.....	558-5424
Jennifer Byquist, Teacher	558-6598	Kathryn Teske, Coordinator.....	558-5724
Jean Chauvin, Teacher	558-6599		

Population Served

Children who live within the boundaries of Central Valley School District and who do not "choice" to another public school district may attend the Able Learner Program if they meet selection criteria. The program population represents three to four percent of the district's elementary population.

Program Location

All classes will be held at the CVVL/Ables Building located at 13208 E Sprague Avenue.

Program Model

The Able Learner Program is a pull-out model in which 2nd through 5th-grade students participate one day per week.

Transportation

Students ride buses to and from home schools to the Able Learners Program. Parents should check with their child's home school for particular pick-up times.

Lunch

Students may bring their own lunch to the Able Learners Program or students may purchase hot lunch just as they do in their home schools. Prices and menus are the same, as is the qualification for free or reduced lunches. Students also may access their prepaid accounts from the student's CVSD home school.

Attendance

Once a student has decided to participate in the Able Learner Program, a commitment has been made to attend on a regular basis. Because students work in many continuing group activities, they do not have an option to choose whether they will come from week to week. Each child's success, as well as the group's, is dependent upon the regular weekly attendance of all Able Learner students. Exceptions for very special circumstances must be cleared in advance with the program teachers. Please alert your child's home school before 9 a.m. if an Ables student will be absent on his/her day for any reason.

Home School

Students should not be required to complete all assignments given in their regular classroom while attending Ables. Able Learner Program students should be held responsible for the *learning* they are missing in the regular classroom, but not necessarily the *work*. Classroom teachers can administer pre- or post-tests that can easily determine whether an Ables student has already mastered a skill. Students should check with their home school teachers regarding procedures and expectations.

Homework

Homework in Ables is not regularly scheduled; however, when students are working on projects they may bring home activities to work on outside of the program day. Timelines for current projects and monthly activities will be emailed home.

Parent Conferences and Holidays

Ables parent conferences will be held once per year. During this time teachers will schedule a one-half hour session with each student's parent(s)/guardian(s).

Invitations

Parents will be invited to attend occasional project presentations prepared by the students. Emails and invitations will keep parents informed.

Exit Policy

A parent/guardian may request that a student be withdrawn from the program. A meeting will be convened by the Principal or Director to discuss the request.

A teacher or program administrator may initiate a review of a student's continued need for program services. If the Multidisciplinary Selection Committee determines that the student no longer qualifies for highly capable program services, the committee may recommend that the student exit the program. The student's parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified in writing of the committee's decision and of the appeal process.

Questions

For any questions or concerns regarding the classroom program, parents should call the program teachers. Teachers are available before 9 a.m. and after 2 p.m. or a message may be left during those times. Parents may also arrange a visit. In addition, parents may contact the Ables Program Coordinator or Principal with questions. Phone numbers are printed at the top of this sheet.