

HIGH-ABILITY SERVICES GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

IDENTIFICATION

Students must be formally identified before being placed in a cluster. The identification data is obtained from a variety of sources, including parent nominations, teacher nominations, achievement test scores, ability test scores, and teacher rating scales. A student is placed in the level of services that is deemed appropriate to stimulate development while maintaining a manageable classroom workload. This placement is continually monitored by school personnel and may be adjusted as the year moves along. Any questions about the identification process should be directed to Mr. Rhea.

COMMUNICATION

An individualized High-Ability Cluster Student Progress Report is sent home (by email, if possible) two times during the year for every student (mid-November and mid-April). This report addresses several skill areas that are identified for development through participation in cluster and pull-out activities. Parents are encouraged to use this information to help their children make the most of this opportunity to grow. In addition, cluster teachers should regularly provide updates about the unique experiences of cluster children in the classroom. More information about high-ability activities can be found at the CSF website (www.frankfortschools.org/high-ability) or via the “Frankfort High-Ability” page on Facebook.

FIELD TRIPS

Plans have been made for each group of cluster students to take a field trip in conjunction with an area of study. Outings normally last for the majority of the school day. Children will be required to return signed permission slips in order to take part, and parent chaperones will be invited to accompany classes on these trips. All parents who offer to chaperone will be required to submit to a limited criminal history check (performed by the school corporation) prior to the trip. Permission slips will be sent home well in advance of each trip to provide details about the site, specific activities, lunch plans, and requirements for volunteer participation.

TECHNOLOGY

Students are exposed to technology regularly in the cluster classrooms and pull-out setting. Throughout the year, the children will concentrate on learning to apply the computer as a tool in the collection, organization, and analysis of information. Using existing software, they will discover how to store, retrieve, manipulate, and represent data in several forms. Also, learning how to access the wealth of up-to-date information offered at many scientific websites on the Internet benefits students as they develop research skills. The information processing capabilities the children acquire in this way should prove valuable as they complete scientific experiments and assemble independent projects.