

✧ Community Schools of Frankfort ✧

Education and Administration Center • 2400 East Wabash Street
Frankfort, Indiana 46041 • 765.654.5585 • www.frankfortschools.org

HIGH-ABILITY SERVICES CURRICULUM AND STUDENT EXPERIENCES

OVERALL CURRICULAR OBJECTIVES

The activities designed for the children within a cluster classroom are closely aligned with the standard grade-level curriculum, and either mastering accelerated content (mathematics) or generating deeper understandings of existing themes (language arts) is emphasized. In mathematics, content that is on grade level is blended with curriculum from the next higher grade level, and the pacing of this instruction is faster than would be typical. This enables elementary students to adequately prepare for advanced math classes offered at the middle school and beyond. For language arts, the texts introduced are more complex in terms of subject and vocabulary, and the writing extensions call for greater depth of analysis and synthesis. Understanding meaning through open-ended discussion is also emphasized.

As for the supplemental pull-out group, its focus is primarily enrichment, where refinement of problem solving skills, cultivation of scientific thinking capabilities, and effective communication of ideas are targeted. Activities are structured to develop the creative, divergent, and evaluative skills of participants and to facilitate the exchange of ideas. Students receive opportunities to express their talents in both independent and group scenarios. Participants typically are extending some of their in-class cluster activities, such as the application of the scientific method in designing experiments. A number of challenging analytical exercises are also planned which will help students develop greater self-awareness of talents when confronted with difficult problems.

ADDITIONAL CURRICULUM FOR PULL-OUT PARTICIPANTS

Grade 2: Students spend time examining insects and their behaviors, as well as exploring magnetic fields. Additional scientific areas of study for this group include investigating how researchers use properties to identify chemicals through experimentation, understanding minerals and their characteristics, and deducing which variables affect the behavior of pendulums.

Grade 3: At this level, students begin to independently explore the algebraic manipulation of equalities and integers. Additional scientific areas of study for this group include monitoring the growth and development of flowering plants as conditions change, comparing and contrasting the planets in our solar system, and investigating the physical principles which govern flight.

Grade 4: Students continue to independently explore the algebraic manipulation of equalities and integers, beginning to work with negative variables. Other scientific areas of study for this group include exploring the ocean as a habitat that supports a variety of life, comparing and contrasting several types of electrical circuits and components, and investigating the economic principles behind the stock market.

Grade 5: For these students, self-paced exploration of the algebraic manipulation of equalities and integers comes to a close with the incorporation of negative numbers. Other scientific areas of study for this group include examining rocks and applying techniques used by geologists to locate oil, analyzing the diversity of the rainforests to understand species relationships, and exploring methods used to break encrypted messages. An opportunity to complete and enter an independent science research project in the Lafayette Regional Science and Engineering Fair at Purdue University is also offered.