

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Explorers

The WCPSS Academically or Intellectually Gifted (AIG) Program includes a unique nurturing component, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Explorers. The AIG teacher works in partnership with 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers to provide a variety of in-class experiences designed to elicit high academic performance. Students who demonstrate potential in these activities will receive enrichment/extension activities in reading/language arts and/or mathematics under the guidance of the AIG teacher.

1. Third Grade Explorers is a team effort between the AIG teacher and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers.
2. Collaborative planning between the AIG teacher and the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers should occur prior to in-class experiences.
3. The AIG teacher and the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom teachers collaborate to select two or three units of study to include reading/language arts, mathematics and writing.
4. During the first 2 quarters, the AIG teacher will lead Explorers introductory, whole-class demonstration lessons within the third grade classrooms for all students. Third grade students at magnet schools may participate in elective opportunities instead of Explorers.
5. The classroom teacher observes and notes student responses using the suggested *Observational Checklist*. During the in-class demonstration lessons, the classroom teachers will document the observed high academic performance of students. These observations may also be used as informal indicators for AIG nomination and referral.
6. The classroom teacher and the AIG teacher collaborate to assess student responses and products using an *Observational Checklist* to select students for further enrichment. Products and responses should reflect characteristics of highly capable students.
7. Students who demonstrate high performance within the classroom may participate in small group enrichment activities providing an opportunity to develop and demonstrate gifted behaviors.
8. Students participating in small group instruction with the AIG teacher are not identified as AIG students. These groups are fluid and flexible. Some students may participate in one or more small group experience(s), while other students may not demonstrate a need for enrichment activities with the AIG teacher.
9. Classroom follow-up center activities may be provided for whole class enrichment or small group differentiation as appropriate.
10. Team teaching may occur on a short-term basis during the whole group demonstration lessons or units.
11. Student portfolios from 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Explorers may be reviewed along with formal and informal indicators for possible AIG nomination and referral of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students.
12. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters, the AIG teacher should stop the small group extension/enrichment activities with the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students. The AIG teacher may continue whole group, in-class demonstration lessons with 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students as time permits if all AIG individual testing, evaluation and identification compliance requirements are fulfilled.
13. The Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) will be administered to all 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students and the Iowa Test of Basic Skills will be administered to some 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students during their 3<sup>rd</sup> grade school year.
14. Students identified for additional differentiation in the WCPSS AIG Program during the second semester 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will begin their service the first semester of their next academic year in 4<sup>th</sup> grade.