

2020-2021 Gifted Education Services Update

Due to requirements imposed by COVID-19, gifted services provided through the EXTEND program for elementary and middle school students have been adjusted.

The elementary gifted resource teachers have created instructional material to extend the grade level math and language arts SOL. Gifted resource teachers are assigned a scheduled time to work with groups of gifted students for live lessons for two 30-minute enrichment blocks over the course of each week. These live sessions are complemented by follow-up gifted enrichment activities on Canvas, the YCSD online platform.

Middle school EXTEND classes offer social studies and science enrichment to complement the advanced math and language arts options offered through the schools. The middle school EXTEND teacher meets with students during one of the 35-minute academic flex times each week. These live sessions are complemented by follow-up activities on Canvas, the YCSD online platform.

When logging onto Canvas, identified gifted students see the additional EXTEND Course tile listed on their dashboards. This is the location where the students will find the Microsoft Teams links to join the live gifted class meetings and where the enrichment activities are found. The Teams meeting links will also appear on the student's Teams calendar. An email with more specific details is sent to families upon identification.

Virtual Academy families: Currently, because the schedule for this year was created based on enrollment figures from the home schools, when students join online gifted education classes, they will join with their home school peers. This definitely helps develop classroom community with such limited EXTEND class time. For example, if your child is a MVES student with a teacher from DES, the student would join during the MVES class time. Regardless of school, the pullout classes for each grade level are held at the same time of day.

Subject to Change: Of course, as students return to the schools with face-to-face instruction, these schedules will change. Each school's gifted contact or administrator will have the most up-to-date plans for gifted education as school schedules change during the year.

If you have any questions about these changes or services provided to gifted students during the 2020-2021 school year, please contact Sarah Haywood, Gifted Program Coordinator, at 757-898-0389 or shaywood2@ycsd.york.va.us.