

Quarterly Gifted News

A Note from Mrs. Dorsey

I want to congratulate all of my gifted students on a successful first quarter. I'm very pleased with the progress each student in my classes across the county has made during this 9-weeks! Keep up the good work!

The goal of Academic Enrichment is to provide an optimally-challenging, enjoyable learning environment that capitalizes on individual learning style preferences & interests as well as intellectual strengths. Want to know more about how your child learns? I encourage you to visit the following site: <https://www.scholastic.com/parents/family-life/creativity-and-critical-thinking/learning-skills-for-kids/how-your-child-smart.html> for some helpful info & recommendations.

I have many exciting activities planned over the coming weeks, and I'm looking forward to continuing to learn along with your student! As always, please don't hesitate to contact me at bethanie.dorsey@k12.wv.us with any questions or concerns.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to the following students for their participation in the county-wide Math Field Day:

- Addison E. - Beckley - Joshua I. - Stratton
- Carter C. - Crescent - Reagan M. - Hollywood

Way to go, friends!
KEEP STRIVING FOR
EXCELLENCE!

~ Curriculum Update ~

READING

Outside of class each week, your child is reading several chapters of a novel in preparation for our in-class Book Club. *This approach is a PERFECT fit for your child's intellectual ability!* Research confirms that providing a collaborative environment in which students construct meaning by sharing text-based insights & listening to the ideas of others promotes higher-order questioning & analysis skills AND increases comprehension, vocabulary, critical thinking and even reading motivation & engagement! Ask your student to tell you more about this delightful literacy time!

WRITING

Inquiry Project #1 begins November 1. This will be an interest-based project, so please encourage your student to continue thinking about what new topic (s)he would like to explore! Utilizing the Writing Workshop model, we'll learn invaluable research skills during weekly focus lessons & apply them during independent writing time. Have you heard of RAFT writing? Stay tuned to find out about this fun (& effective) writing strategy that we'll use as we determine how to articulately convey our research findings to others!

MATH

No rote memorization or repetitive practice problems here! Gifted students need challenging non-routine problems that promote deep conceptual understanding and connect skills & concepts across mathematic domains. In Academic Enrichment class, we work on projects that require your student to apply grade-level or (sometimes) accelerated skills situated in real-world contexts. A hands-on Thanksgiving-themed project is up next!

CRITICAL THINKING

We have been practicing both deductive & spatial reasoning using various puzzles. This is a great way to develop task persistence & problem-solving skills while refining logic & reasoning abilities. Your student should be able to define and explain both types of reasoning when asked!!

"Every leaf speaks bliss to me,
fluttering from the AUTUMN tree." -Emily Bronte