

MACC

(Multi-Age Cluster Class)

PROGRAM

Parent Package

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MULTI-AGE CLUSTER CLASS

Purpose

To provide academic challenge and social-emotional support for highly gifted students through an intellectual peer group, and conceptually advanced curriculum.

Description

Grade 5, 6, and 7 students participate in an interdisciplinary program designed to challenge and develop the depth and breadth of the student's critical and creative thinking abilities utilizing a diverse range of higher-level thinking models. Reflection on individual learning style, the nature of excellence and group dynamics are integral parts of the curriculum. Defining personal interests and individual goals and demonstrating a personal work ethic are important aspects of the classroom experience.

Number of Students

Maximum of 20 students per class.

District Locations

Chantrell Creek Elementary	(Gr. 5-7)
Berkshire Park Elementary	(Gr. 5-7)
Erma Stephenson Elementary	(Gr. 5-7)
Hyland Elementary	(Gr. 5-7)

Candidate Criteria

Grades 5-7 students will be considered for the class based on skill development, cognitive abilities, intellectual interests, creativity, and emotional maturity. Criteria include: reading and mathematics skills two or more grades above grade level; two plus standard deviations above the mean on cognitive ability tests; demonstrated ability to focus on tasks, enjoyment of complexity and marked motivation to learn quickly and to learn advanced level material. Students can expect to work with intermediate level curriculum.

Referral Review

Referrals are reviewed by a screening committee consisting of school-based administrators, psychologists, MACC teachers and the Gifted Education Helping Teacher.

Referral Process

Referrals are completed at the school level.

For more information, please contact your child's school directly.



Multi-Age Cluster Class (MACC)

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **How do we apply for the MACC Program?**

The classroom teacher or other school personnel, who knows the child best, should complete the referral. Referrals must be sent to Student Support, Education Services prior to the due date.

2. **What is the MACC program?**

Each classroom is comprised of grade 5, 6 and 7 students. Individualized learning is at the core of the programming. Each student's Gifted IEP provides instructional decisions and pathways for social/emotional, academic, creative, leadership and intellectual areas. Complexity and flexibility in learning are imperative to help meet the needs of the gifted learner.

3. **How much homework is there in the MACC program?**

Homework will be dependent on each MACC teacher. The volume of work will not be greater than in a typical class.

4. **What happens if it does not seem like a good fit for my child?**

If the classroom is not a good fit for the learner, communication will take place between the teacher, administrator, student and parent. If space is available, students may return to their catchment school.

5. **Can we visit the classroom?**

Once students are selected, parents and students are invited to spend a half-day in the classroom to meet the teacher and students. Visits to the classroom are not possible during class time as it may be disruptive to the learning environment.

6. **Do students require a Psycho-educational Assessment prior to referral?**

Students do not require a Psycho-educational Assessment. The Surrey School District provides a screening process for all students that are referred to the MACC program. This screening involves a problem solving and reasoning test, creativity tests, a writing sample, group problem-solving activities, a written application, and a personal interview.

7. **Do students require a gifted designation to be accepted into the program?**

Students do not require a gifted designation to be referred to this program. In the Surrey School District, designations are provided in one of three ways: recommendation by the District Challenge Program; a Psycho-educational Assessment, or the MACC Screening Process.

8. How many students get accepted?

There are four MACC sites throughout Surrey. The average number of new students for each site is typically eight students.

9. How many students are in each Multi-age Cluster Class?

There are a maximum of 20 students in each class.

10. Where are the MACC schools presently located?

Chantrell Creek Elementary; Berkshire Park Elementary; Erma Stephenson Elementary; and Hyland Elementary

11. Can we choose our school of preference?

Prior to the screening process, families will be able asked to provide their home address. All efforts will be made to place accepted students at the MACC location closest to their home address; however, this may not always be possible.

12. Will transportation be provided?

Surrey School District does not provide transportation to this full-time program. Parents will be responsible for transportation.

13. Once accepted into the MACC program, will students have to reapply to remain in the program for future years?

Once a student is accepted into the MACC, they will remain there for future years and do NOT need to reapply.