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Dr. William C. Hardin, Superintendent

From Fifth to Sixth

Hopefully, the experiences and knowledge gained from elementary Challenge program have been positive and rewarding for you and your child. As your fifth grader moves into middle school next year, you will notice differences in the gifted service models from one school level to the next. The elementary gifted resource model focuses upon interdisciplinary (reading, language arts, math, social studies, or science) units of instruction while the middle school advanced content model focuses on one subject per class with other subjects integrated as appropriate. Both models are designed with the expectation that all learners master the state standards and gifted education standards (advanced communication, research/study skills, problem solving, critical and creative thinking skills, exploration of advanced content, and self-directed study) by mastering content at different rates and/or at higher, broader levels with changes in the content, context, process or product designed to meet advanced learner needs.

There will be many changes for your rising sixth grader next year. The middle school schedule and gifted service model are just two of those changes. Grades in gifted education subjects are another change. Students will continue to be challenged and will also receive grades in specific subject area content. The change from resource to advanced content is quite different but please be assured that students do adjust to the change and should continue in the classes best suited for their strengths. The chart below displays basic differences in the two school level models.

	Elementary School Resource Model	Middle School Advanced Content Model
Schedule	One day per week pullout	Daily
Time in Gifted Class	Full day	During regular core subject blocks (i.e., math)
Curriculum/Instruction <small>*Designed to meet performance standards and gifted education goals</small>	Interdisciplinary (math, reading/language arts, social studies, science)	By subject
System/State/National Assessments	Same as all others by grade level	Same as all others by grade level
Continuation in the Program <small>*Per the Camden County Continuation Policy</small>	Overall average of 70 in the advanced level class	70 or higher in the advanced level class(es)
Grades	Progress reported by the gifted teacher and regular progress/report cards reported by regular education teacher(s)	Progress and report cards by subject area teacher (i.e., gifted math class grade)

Please contact Dr. Beverly Strickland (729-5687) or the school's principal/guidance counselor with questions or concerns about the gifted education program at your child's school.

Board Members:

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