

2020 – 2021 High Achiever Program

Purpose:

The High Achiever Program is being improved in order to ensure that academically high achieving students are identified and provided with an above normal level of academic rigor in their academic courses. This program will place High Achieving students in the most rigorous instructional environment PCMS has to offer.

In these courses, teachers will implement innovative pedagogical methods to develop the academic talent, creativity, and critical thinking of individuals designated as High Achievers. This program is being implemented with the goal of ensuring that every student in the program produces proficient and above academic growth each year.

Teachers supporting this program will use the Georgia Department of Education's Programming Standards for Meeting the Needs of Gifted and High-Ability Learners with regards to the following standard areas:

- A. Curriculum Planning & Instruction
- B. Learning Environments
- C. Professional Development

Entry Criteria

For the 6th Grade:

5th Grade students will be identified for the High Achiever Program based on their academic performance in the 5th grade, and placed in the HA program at the start of their 6th grade year if they score:

- A. In the 75thile Range or higher on the Fall or Winter Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) in their 5th grade year for Reading and Math in the same testing year.
- B. Once in the program the student will continue on unless they are exited out the program.

For the 7th Grade:

6th Grade students will be identified for the High Achiever Program based on their academic performance in the 6th grade, and placed in the HA program at the start of their 7th grade year if they score:

- A. In the 75thile Range or higher on the Fall or Winter Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) in their 6th grade year for Reading and Math in the same testing year.
- B. Once in the program the student will continue on unless they are exited out the program.

For the 8th Grade:

7th Grade students will be identified for the High Achiever Program based on their academic performance in the 7th grade, and placed in the HA program at the start of their 8th grade year if they score:

- A. In the 75thile Range or higher on the Fall or Winter Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) in their 7th grade year for Reading and Math in the same testing year.
- B. Once in the program the student will continue on unless they are exited out the program.

Probation / Exit

If a student earns a grade below “B” in any content area, that student will be placed on probation for that content area for a semester. If a student earns two consecutive grades below a “B” in the same content area, that student will be taken out of the High Achiever Program for that content area. If scheduling permits, the student will be allowed to remain on team and stay in the High Achiever Program for their other content areas.

Reentry

If a student earns a grade of “B” or above for two consecutive semesters in all core content areas, that student will be eligible for the High Achiever Program at the start of the following year.

Example; a student earns a C in science first semester of 6th grade, and then earns a grade of C in Science second semester of 6th grade. That student will be removed from the High Achiever Program at the start of 7th grade. The student will need to earn a grade of B or higher in all core academic areas the first semester of 7th grade and the second semester of 7th grade in order to Reenter the High Achiever Program in 8th grade.

Students and parents will need to complete a High Achiever Reentry application in order to be considered for placement in the program. Applicants will be readmitted to the program if space is available.

Class Groupings:

Depending on the number of qualifying students, PCMS will place students identified as High Achievers in the same class as Gifted Students. We will attempt to disperse High Achiever students as evenly as possible across the Gifted Classes given the number of qualifying students for both the High Achiever and Gifted Program.