

## CURRICULUM OFFERINGS

### Academic Excellence

Interdisciplinary units  
In-depth social studies/science units  
Selected long/short term projects  
Research skills  
Basic skills in core subjects

### Independent Study Skills

Self-motivation  
Note taking, outlining, summarizing  
Library use  
Time management  
Research aids

### Thinking Skills

Write research paper  
Learn inquiry methods  
Use brainstorming techniques  
Learn the skill of decision making  
Learn the techniques of problem solving

### Creative Thinking

Learn fluency, flexibility, originality, and elaboration  
Perform and create plays and skits  
Create murals  
Do creative writing  
Produce original products

### Understanding & Appreciation of Others

Interact in group situations  
Study lives of gifted people  
Experience speakers and field trips  
Refine leadership skills

## CHARACTERISTICS OF HIGH ABILITY STUDENTS

- ❖ heightened levels of curiosity and a wide variety of interests
- ❖ ability to handle abstract ideas
- ❖ flexibility in thinking
- ❖ expanded vocabulary and verbal ability
- ❖ advanced reading ability
- ❖ independent
- ❖ high level of personal responsibility and commitment
- ❖ strong feelings and opinions
- ❖ preference for original and creative responses
- ❖ high energy level

(Adapted from Clark, 1983; and Baska, 1987)

## THINKING SKILLS CURRICULUM

"Thinking skills curriculum in every aspect of the curriculum will sharpen children's capacity to make connections and draw distinctions, to define and to clarify, to assess factual information objectively and critically to deal reflectively with the relationship between facts and values, and to differentiate their beliefs and what is true from their understanding of what is logically possible. These specific skills help children listen better, study better, learn better, and express themselves better. They, therefore carry over into all academic areas. A thinking skills program must help children think both more logically and more meaningfully."

(Lipman, Sharp, Oscanyan)

If you would like more information about either the EXCEL or Honors Programs, please contact your school principal or the following:  
Office of Curriculum/Instruction  
(812) 897-6037



**WARRICK  
COUNTY  
SCHOOL  
CORPORATION**



**EXCEL/HONORS  
PROGRAMS**

**FOR  
STUDENTS WITH HIGH  
ACADEMIC ABILITY**

## EXCEL/HONORS PROGRAMS



Expanded Curriculum for Exceptional Learners (EXCEL) is a program offered to students in grades 4-6. The program consists of

full-time and/or pull-out classes at several different schools within the corporation. The Honors program is designed for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students with high academic potential. These Honors classes, offered in language arts, math, science, and social studies may lead to some advanced placement at the high school level.

### GOAL

The goal of the EXCEL/Honors programs is to provide academic challenge to students of high ability. Activities in these programs are structured to assist these students in assessing and capitalizing upon the unique abilities, talents, and interests which represent them as individuals. Students who succeed in this program are those who:



- are motivated to use their high ability.
- desire a greater challenge.
- need the opportunity to work at a faster pace.



### LOCATIONS

Fourth and fifth grade EXCEL classes are available to the students of the WCSC at Oakdale and Chandler Elementary Schools. Sixth grade classes are located at Boonville and Castle North Middle Schools. Students are assigned to these programs based on their “home” school location. Honors classes are available at the area middle and senior high schools.

### SELECTION PROCESS

A selection committee assesses students on the basis of standardized test scores, cognitive skills index, teacher recommendations, current grades, creative writing, and student achievements. Students are screened each spring in the third through seventh grades. Transfer students are admitted on an individual basis. Being in an EXCEL class is not a prerequisite to being in a junior high Honors class. Students may be invited to attend one, two, three, or all four Honors classes.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Transportation is provided within the home school districts.
- The Corporation does not charge additional fees for participation in this program.
- Students in the program are integrated into normal school activities.
- Homework is appropriate to students’ grade levels. The goal is not to have more work but to have work more suitable to the students’ abilities.
- Students are expected to be motivated to learn in addition to having high academic ability.
- The activities include group work, presentations, research, leadership opportunities, field trips, independent study, and hands-on lab experiences.

