

# Fountain Central Jr/Sr High School



## High Ability Program 2019-2020

The Southeast Fountain School Corporation, in accordance with Indiana Code 20-36-2, provides appropriate educational experiences to high ability students in Kindergarten through grade 12.

### DEFINITION OF "HIGH ABILITY"

"The high ability student is one who performs at, or shows the potential for performing at, an outstanding level of accomplishment in at least one domain when compared to other students of the same age, experience, or environment; and is characterized by exceptional gifts, talents, motivation, or interests" (IC 20-36-1-3).

Students identified as "high ability" are those students who, regardless of ethnicity, gender, or socio-economic status, perform at or show their potential for performing at an outstanding level of achievement when compared with students of the same age, grade level, or experience/background and whose educational needs and/or individual academic growth cannot be met through the general education or grade-level curriculum.

As per Indiana Code (IC 20-10.1-5.1-1), high ability students may show aptitude in one or more of the following areas: general intellectual ability, general creative ability, specific academic subjects, technical and practical arts; visual and performing arts, and/or interpersonal skills.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF A GIFTED CHILD

Although there are many definitions of giftedness, according to the National Association of Gifted Children, gifted children have many common characteristics. It is important to note however, that there is a distinction between a child who is bright and does well in school versus a truly gifted child. The chart below distinguishes some of those characteristics.

 <i>Bright Child</i>	 <i>Gifted Learner</i>
Knows the answers.	Asks the questions.
Is interested.	Is highly curious.
Is attentive.	Is mentally and physically involved.
Has good ideas.	Has wild, silly ideas.
Works hard.	Plays around, yet tests well.
Answers the questions.	Discusses in detail, elaborates.
Top group.	Beyond the group.
Listens with interest.	Shows strong feelings and opinions.
Learns with ease.	Already knows.
6-8 repetitions for mastery.	1-2 repetitions for mastery.
Understands ideas.	Constructs abstractions.
Enjoys peers.	Prefers adults.
Grasps the meaning.	Draws inferences.
Completes assignments.	Initiates projects.
Is receptive.	Is intense.
Copies accurately.	Creates new design.
Enjoys school.	Enjoys learning.
Absorbs information.	Manipulates information.
Technician.	Inventor.
Good memorizer.	Good guesser.
Enjoys straightforward, sequential presentation.	Thrives on complexity.
Is alert.	Is keenly observant.
Is pleased with own learning.	Is highly self-critical.

## **JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL (7-8) SERVICES**

Fountain Central Junior High School will provide curriculum and instruction with more depth and rigor in the following ways:

- Cluster Grouping- Students identified as “high ability” based on the SEFSC high ability identification process will be grouped together for both English and Math blocks.
- Special Advanced Classes- FCJH will offer high ability students the opportunity to take the following classes:
  - Pre-Algebra for 7th grade
  - 7th Grade Honors English
  - 8th Grade Honors English
  - High School credit for 8th grade students:
    - Algebra I, Spanish I, Computer Science Essentials, Preparing for College and Careers, Digital Apps, Introduction to Agriculture, and Introduction to 2D and 3D Art

## **HIGH SCHOOL (9-12) SERVICES**

Fountain Central High School will provide curriculum and instruction with more depth and rigor in the following ways:

- Honors Courses:  
English, Geometry, Algebra II, Biology 1
- Advanced Placement Courses (10-12): Calculus, US History, Chemistry, Human Geography, Biology, Government
- Dual Credit Courses: Project Lead the Way
- Early Graduation Program

## **IDENTIFICATION PROCESS**

Southeast Fountain Schools is dedicated to identifying students who perform at or show the potential to perform at an outstanding level. SEFSC will use a triangulation of data to identify those students who qualify for the high ability program in our corporation. The triangulation of data used for identification is as follows:

### **ENGLISH**

Students who wish to enroll in an Honors English course should have a strong academic record in the English course the year before (B- or higher) and achievement indicative of student talent and diligence. They also must meet the following qualification criteria:

#### **Grade 7 & 8 Honors English:**

- A Pass+ score on the ILEARN assessment at the end of grade from previous year or sufficient score on the CoGAT assessment
- and teacher recommendation

#### **Grade 9 Honors English:**

- A Pass+ score on the ILEARN assessment at the end of grade 8
- and teacher recommendation

#### **Grade 10 Honors English:**

- Successful completion of Honors English 9 (recommended B- or higher)
- and teacher recommendation

#### **Grade 11 Honors English:**

- Successful completion of Honors English 10 (recommended B- or higher)
- and a Passing score in the ISTEP 10
- and teacher recommendation

**Grade 12 Honors English:**

- Successful completion of Honors English 11 (recommended B- or higher)
- and Teacher Recommendation

Only students who have achieved the above criteria will be allowed to select the honors courses during the course selection process.

**MATH****Grade 7 Pre-Algebra:**

Students who wish to enroll in Pre-Algebra 7 should have a strong academic record in the math course the year before (B- or higher) and achievement indicative of student talent and diligence. They also must meet the following qualification criteria:

- A placement of 60% on the Math Placement Test taken as a 6th grader
- or a Pass+ score on the ILEARN assessment at the end of grade 6
- or sufficient score on the CoGAT assessment
- and teacher recommendation

**Grade 8 Algebra I:**

Students who wish to enroll in Algebra course should have a strong academic record in Pre-Algebra 7 the year before (B- or higher) They also must meet the following qualification criteria:

- A Pass score on the ILEARN assessment at the end of grade 7
- and teacher recommendation

**Grade 9 Honors Geometry:**

Students who wish to enroll in Honors Geometry course should have a strong academic record in Algebra course the year before (B- or higher) They also must meet the following qualification criteria:

- A Pass score on the ILEARN assessment at the end of grade 8
- and teacher recommendation

**Grade 10 Honors Algebra II:**

Students who wish to enroll in Honors Algebra II course should have a strong academic record in Geometry course the year before (B- or higher). They also must have a teacher recommendation.

**BIOLOGY**

Students who wish to enroll in Honors Biology course should have a strong academic record in science class the year before (B- or higher) They also must meet the following qualification criteria:

- A proficient or advanced score on the 8th grade science end of course assessment
- and teacher recommendation

**AP Courses**

Students who wish to enroll in an advanced placement course should have achievement indicative of student talent and diligence. They also must meet the following qualification criteria:

- A strong academic record the year before (B- or higher) in that particular discipline
- and teacher recommendation

## **MOVE-IN INFORMATION**

If a student moves into the Southeast Fountain School Corporation and has already been identified through a state approved assessment, that documentation will be required.

If a student moves into the Southeast Fountain School Corporation and has not yet been identified through a state approved assessment (such as the CogAT), the following will be required for placement in honors courses:

- (1) Principal and/or Teacher Recommendation from the previous school;
- (2) Standardized Test score(s); and
- (3) Localized assessment (previous course final exam or course semester exam, entrance exam, etc.)

## **REQUEST FOR REVIEW / APPEAL**

A parent/guardian of a student who is not selected for the high ability program for the current school year may appeal the committee's decision. The request must be presented in writing and submitted to the building administrator. The request will then be passed on to the HA Identification Committee for further review. The parent/guardian is welcome to submit a cognitive abilities test from an outside source. The identification criteria listed for a course is used as a guideline. School administration and staff may appeal at their discretion.

## **EXIT POLICY**

Students may exit the high ability program at any time upon written parent/guardian request. It is possible the exit procedures may be initiated based on school request. If at any point the school feels the honors course is not in the best interest of the student, a meeting with administrator, teacher, counselor, and parents/guardians will occur to discuss the student concerns.

**SOUTHEAST FOUNTAIN SCHOOLS HIGH ABILITY PROGRAM REVIEW  
REQUEST/APPEALS FORM**

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to formally request the review of my child's academic and assessment file for consideration in the Southeast Fountain School Corporation High Ability Program.

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Current grade level: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of request: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of additional evidence submitted for review (required):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your request for review will be submitted to the SEF High Ability Identification Committee. The committee includes the building level administration, guidance counselor(s), teachers, and the high ability coordinator. All requests for review must be submitted to the building level administration no later than May 1st of the current school year. A formal letter will be sent no later than the last day of the current school year to notify the parents/guardians of the final decision of identification for the following school year.

Southeast Fountain School Corporation  
Veedersburg, IN 47987  
[www.sefschools.org](http://www.sefschools.org)