

Advanced Learner Programs [ALPs] & Primary Talent Development [PTD] Parent Workshops

Subject: Elementary Advanced Learner Programs (ALPs) & Primary Talent Development (PTD) Parent Workshops being offered on January 19, 2012 and January 31, 2012

Locations: 1/19/12 – Southern High School
1/31/12 – Old Mill High School

Time: Each workshop will take place from 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

Overview:

Parents of students in grades K – 5 are invited to participate in one of two ALPs/PTD Parent Workshops to learn more about the programs being implemented throughout Anne Arundel County Public Schools. Each workshop will begin with an update on ALPs/PTD, then parents will have the opportunity to attend two 30 minute sessions on topics of interest to them. Summaries of the sessions being offered are listed below. Following the break-out sessions, parents may choose to attend a Question & Answer period from 8 – 8:30 pm.

Sessions:

Socratic Seminar (Grades 3 – 5)

Socrates believed it is more important for students to think for themselves than it is to merely fill their heads with 'correct' answers. He engaged his pupils in dialogues by responding to their questions with questions. This process, developed for elementary students by St. Johns College, encourages divergent rather than convergent thinking. In your child's classroom, Socratic discussions are based upon a reading, followed by a strategically directed circle discussion. Take part in an authentic Socratic Discussion just as students would in their classrooms.

Engaging Students in Research (Grades 3 – 5)

How do we teach our children to analyze and evaluate issues in order to form their own educated opinions about the world around them? Through this interactive session, adults will experience the ways students in both the Single-Subject and Exploratory Trails make emotional connections to the content that lead to issues-based research.

Technology Connections (Grades K – 5)

Take a tour through the newly updated Primary Talent Development/Advanced Learner Programs website. Changes include an interactive learning space for your student and downloadable information for parents. The interactive Wikispace offers online games and related documents that give your student opportunities to expand their critical thinking skills and learning.

Hands-On Equations (Grades 3 – 5)

Hands-On Equations is a visual and kinesthetic approach to pre-algebra which supports the introduction of algebraic thinking for students as young as grade 3. Through the use of manipulatives, students are able to solve equations typically not introduced before middle school. Come play to learn how fun algebra can be.

M-Cubed (Grades 3 – 5)

Mentoring Mathematical Minds (M³) is a curriculum that places students in the role of practicing mathematicians. Students engage in investigations, projects, and simulations and actively employ critical and creative problem-solving and reasoning skills that enable students to increase expertise in facing real-world challenges. These fun, hands on lessons help students communicate how algebra can be used to solve a card trick, how ancient number systems compare to the present system, and how probability can be used to win a carnival game...

Jacob's Ladder (Grades 1 – 5)

Jacob's Ladder utilizes readings from fables, myths and nonfiction sources to take children on an inquiry journey-process from basic understanding to critical analyses of the texts read. Ladder rungs are organized to increase complexity in intellectual demand. The skill ladders in Jacob's Ladder correspond with the higher level, critical thinking skills targeted in the William & Mary language arts units.

MSDE Primary Talent Development Fall Module (Grades K – 2)

Primary learners are hard-wired to explore and make meaning of the world around them. The Maryland State Department of Education's *Primary Talent Development Program* focuses on thinking behaviors that nurture and challenge this natural sense of wonder. Several of these thinking behaviors will "come alive" as participants build attribute trains, play Gate Keeper, and construct reasons for why something is the odd one out. Experience our PTD learning module in action!

Using Questioning with Primary Learners (Grades K – 2)

"Why?" "How come?" "But, what if...?"

Have you been peppered with these types of questions from young learners? If your response has typically been, "because..." join this workshop to find out how effective questioning can encourage primary children to make important connections and gain new understandings. Find out the difference between convergent and divergent questioning and learn how both are necessary to solve problems and think both critically and creatively. Learn how you can increase the number and frequency of higher order questions that you use with your young children through everyday activities.