

## MCCPTA Committee Work Plan 2008-09

**Committee:** Gifted Child Committee

**Chair:** Susan J. Thomas

### Committee Members

Chairpersons of local PTA Gifted Child Committees; other interested persons

### Vision

*How does the work of your committee support the objects and mission of PTA and the focus of MCCPTA?*

We support and advocate on behalf of children who require accelerated and enriched instruction within MCPS. We seek to raise awareness of the special needs of all highly able learners to ensure that they are adequately identified and nurtured. We work to ensure that MCPS systematically provides appropriate programming to address equitably each child's unique gifts and talents.

### Goals

*Give a summary statement of your committee's goals for this year. Consider how you will identify attainment.*

1. Provide resources for parents in Montgomery County to empower them to help each child achieve at his or her full potential.
2. Identify effective acceleration/enrichment practices within MCPS and share them with our school community.
3. Represent MCCPTA on the Accelerated and Enriched Instruction Advisory Board as it works to revise MCPS Policy IOA.
4. Advocate in support of the MCCPTA Resolution: Gifted and Talented Curriculum in Middle Schools, which was approved on April 25, 2006.

### Action Steps

*What does your committee plan to do to achieve these goals? Include plans for meetings, mailings, etc., interaction with other MCCPTA committees, MCPS staff you may work with and in what capacity, other county, state or federal agencies, organizations you may contact as part of your action plan.*

1. Recruit Gifted Child Committee Chairpersons (GT Liaisons) from every school in the county.

2. Continue the MCCPTA listserv for use by GT Liaisons to inform them of upcoming events or meetings, resources available and other items of interest.  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MCCPTAGiftedChildCommittee/>
3. Work with the MCPS Office of Accelerated and Enriched Instruction to provide several informational/training meetings for members of the committee and other interested parents and members of the community. The meetings will cover at least two of the following topics:
  - **GT Liaison Fall Training Session:** General GT information regarding global screening, advanced opportunities in reading and mathematics, along with accelerated/center/magnet programs available. Discussion of any changes in programs, staffing, and transportation due to ongoing budget concerns.
  - **Beyond the GT Label - How Teachers Identify Students Who Need Above Grade Level Instruction:** - How do teachers determine a students' need for above grade level programming? What assessments are used in reading, math, and other subjects? What do assessment scores mean?
  - **Differentiating Instruction: Best Practices in Grouping Strategies & Teacher Preparation:** What does differentiated instruction look like in reading, science and social studies at each school level? What are the pros and cons of various grouping strategies used in ES and MS? Does research support a particular strategy for gifted students? What are some practical strategies teachers can use for students who learn at different rates or bring prior knowledge to the classroom? How are teachers prepared/trained by MCPS to address the needs of gifted students and advanced learners? Does MCPS maintain information on what training each teacher has received?
  - **Math Acceleration:** What programs are available to address the need for acceleration of high ability math students within MCPS? What is curriculum compacting? What factors should be considered when deciding whether to accelerate a child in mathematics? If a child gets 1.5 years of instruction in a 1 year period, how is that followed up the following year?
  - **Language Arts Acceleration:** What are the above grade level reading programs for K-5 and how are they implemented in schools? Do all elementary and middle schools offer at least one above grade level reading program? What are the components of the writing curriculum? Are there extensions for advanced writers? What are the expectations regarding writing instruction for students in ES, MS and HS?
  - **College Preparation and Scholarship Information:** What are the best strategies in MS and HS for admission to college and obtaining scholarships?
4. Attempt to get an expert guest speaker to address the committee on a topic such as "Stretching Gifted Students Without Straining Them: How to Find the Right Balance"
5. Reach out to other groups within the community as well as other PTA committees and MCPS BOE to exchange ideas and build relationships that will allow us to effectively advocate for students in need of GT services.

## Expenses

We estimate that our expenses will be \$600 for ICB Room Rental Fees and refreshments for our meetings.