Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to the gifted program. You probably just received a letter in the mail stating that your child is eligible for gifted services in LCPS and will begin the gifted program in the fall. I'm sure you have many questions about the gifted program and how this program will challenge your child. You have come to the right place. At the request of parents/guardians like you, this webpage is a resource that has been developed to provide you with answers that will help you support your child in the gifted program. This webpage will be updated throughout the summer and next year to provide you with up-to-date information about gifted services.

To get started, please read the **Frequently Asked Questions** below.

Until the 2019-20 FUTURA centers have been announced, which will happen this summer, you may contact the SEARCH teacher at your child's school with any additional questions that you have.

Thank you for taking an active role in your child's education.

Wendy S. King
Supervisor, Gifted Education
Loudoun County Public Schools
Frequently Asked Questions
FUTURA

1. What is FUTURA?

The FUTURA program seeks to enhance and to develop the intellect of 4th and 5th grade students who have been formally identified in need of gifted services. FUTURA is a pull-out program where identified students receive enrichment and challenges one day a week in a center at another school. Some LCPS gifted learners receive services in their own school through the new school-based, collaborative gifted model (see details below). Students are immersed in lessons that correlate the themes Structures and Systems to the Virginia Standards of Learning Objectives for the core content areas. FUTURA offers a stimulating environment focusing on higher level thinking skills and activities including:

- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Creative Thinking
- Evaluative Thinking

2. When will FUTURA begin?

FUTURA will begin the week after Labor Day. Once the exact date is established, it will be posted on the FUTURA welcome webpage.

During the first two weeks of school (before FUTURA begins), FUTURA teachers visit their students at the students’ home schools. They provide information about the first day of FUTURA and when the FUTURA Back-to-School Night sessions will take place. The Back-to-School Night sessions are for parents/guardians and students and provide a wealth of information about FUTURA. It is also a time for parents/guardians to meet their child’s FUTURA teacher(s).

3. When will I know where my child will go for FUTURA?

FUTURA centers will be announced this summer. Keep an eye on the FUTURA welcome webpage for more information.
4. **How will my child get to the FUTURA center?**

Transportation to FUTURA is provided by LCPS. Each FUTURA day, the SEARCH teacher or the school designee will walk FUTURA students to the bus, take attendance, and answer any questions the students have. Once the students get to the FUTURA center by bus, the FUTURA teacher meets the students at the bus and walks them to class.

5. **What does the FUTURA day look like?**

*(All times are approximate and will vary by FUTURA center.)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:45 am - 9:00 am</td>
<td>FUTURA bus picks students up from base school.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am - 9:15 am</td>
<td>Students arrive at their FUTURA center.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15 am - 1:45 pm</td>
<td>Creative Problem Solving – Warm up activity, strategy development, logic puzzles, etc.</td>
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<td>Systems/Structures Investigation – Students learn through units based on these themes. Projects often include developing a product.</td>
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<td>Centers – Students work independently on a center they choose.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:45 pm - 1:50 pm</td>
<td>Students depart FUTURA center and return to base schools.</td>
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</tbody>
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*Note: Students do not participate in specials at the FUTURA Center.*
6. **What is the school-based, collaborative gifted model?**

This new model was established to provide gifted services for students at their home schools. A gifted resource teacher will challenge gifted learners in their regular classrooms by enriching and extending the general curriculum and by integrating William & Mary Literature Units, Mentoring Mathematical Minds, and other curricula developed for gifted learners. In addition, gifted learners will meet during the week with other gifted learners to collaborate on a variety of challenging, interdisciplinary projects.

Information sessions about this new model will be held in the fall. Parents/guardians are invited to attend to learn more about this model and to ask questions.

7. **What schools are implementing this new model? (Please note: this list may be updated before the end of the school year with additional schools.)**

**Phase 1 Schools (Began 2018-2019)**
- Kenneth W. Culbert Elementary School
- John W. Tolbert Jr. Elementary School
- Ashburn Elementary School
- Sanders Corner Elementary School
- Steuart W. Weller Elementary School
- Goshen Post Elementary School

**Phase 2 Schools (Beginning 2019-2020)**
- Algonkian Elementary School (4th grade)
- Belmont Station Elementary School (4th grade)
- Creighton’s Corner Elementary School
- Emerick Elementary School
- Evergreen Mill Elementary School (4th grade)
- Moorefield Station Elementary School
- Rosa Lee Carter Elementary School (4th grade)
- Sugarland Elementary School

*If a school is implementing the new model for 4th grade only, the 5th grade gifted learners will go to the school’s assigned FUTURA center for gifted services.*