



PACT

Program for Academic and Creative Talent

The elementary school Program for Academic and Creative Talent provides curriculum enrichment experiences for academically advanced students. A team of resource teachers serves the schools on a rotating schedule, offering students the opportunity to participate in challenging activities in such areas as science, humanities, mathematics, and language arts.



Flow of Programming

ACE

Kindergarten – 1st Grade

Prime Time

2nd – 3rd Grade

PACT

4th – 5th Grade

Overarching dual goal of programming: to find and develop exceptional talent



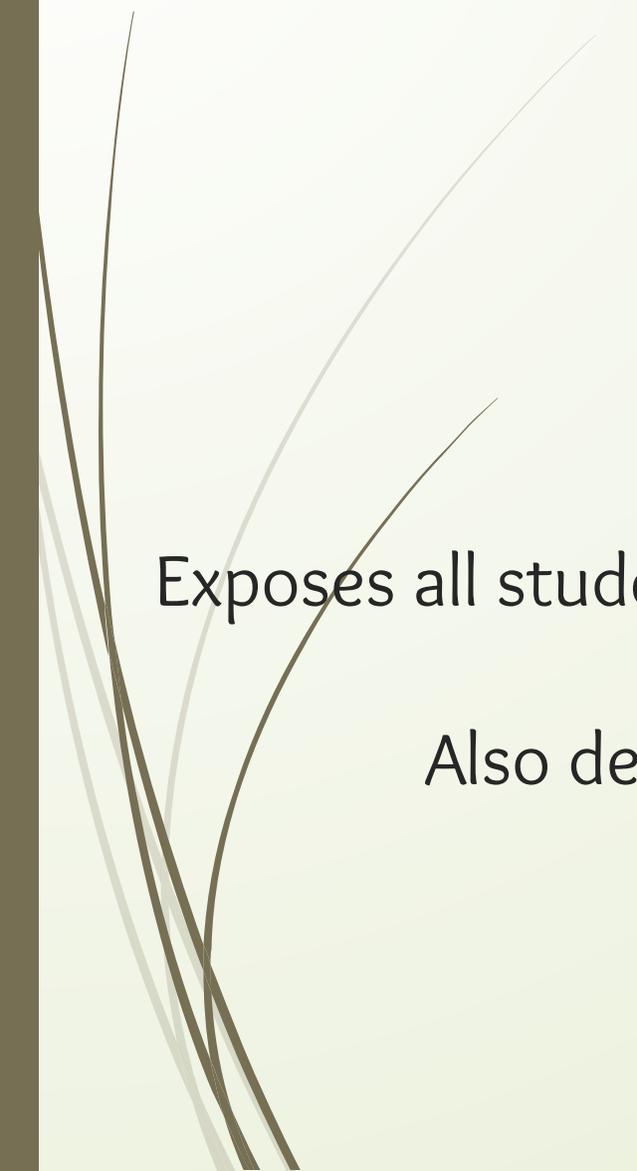
WHAT IS THE ACE PROGRAM?

ACE (Academic Challenge Experiences)

Kindergarten and first grade program

Exposes all student to higher level thinking skills through classroom lessons

Also designed to identify and recognize student potential





WHAT IS THE PRIME TIME PROGRAM?

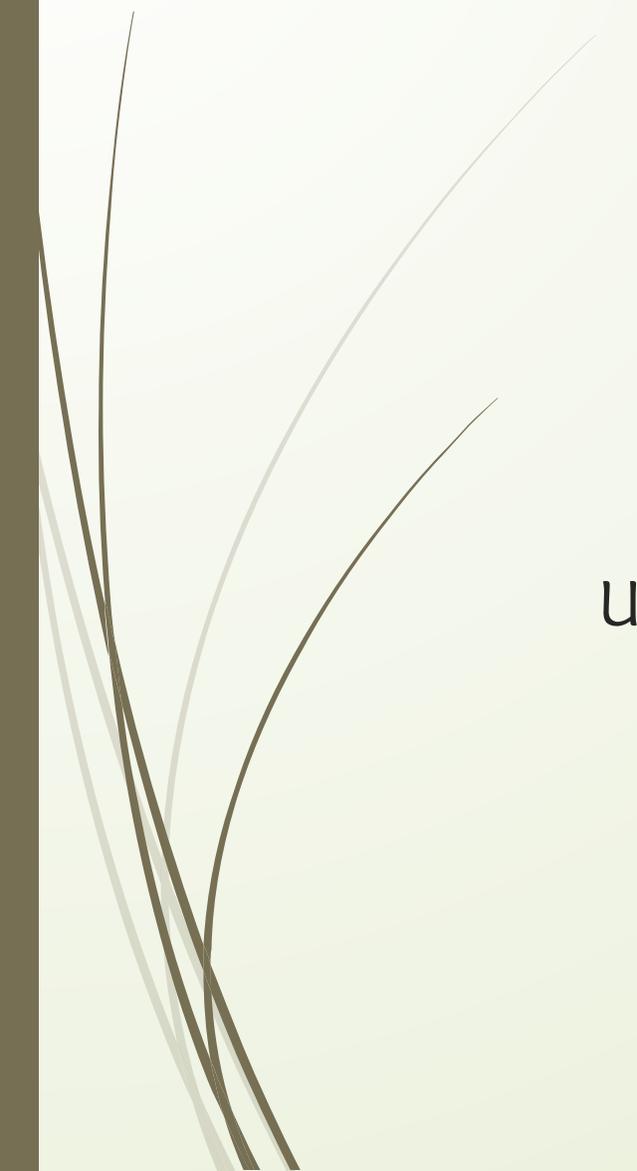
Serves second and third grade students

Demanding academic program

Two semester-long units each academic year

Units vary in their subject area and content focus

Classes occur during the school day





CHANGES IN PRIME TIME FOR SECOND GRADERS

The PACT department has begun using the fall semester of second grade to further the development of higher-level thinking skills introduced through our ACE program in kindergarten and first grade. The work is similar to ACE in that all students are exposed to introductory lessons. However, we build on that introduction by doing follow up work with small groups of students who demonstrate particularly strong thinking skills in any particular area.

By emphasizing thinking skills first, we hope to help students understand the importance of critical and creative thinking and see how it can support their academic learning.

Second graders are screened in January for an academic based Prime Time unit in the spring.



HOW DO STUDENTS BECOME INVOLVED IN PRIME TIME?

PACT resource specialists visit each second and third grade classroom

Classroom-wide screenings are given for the upcoming unit

Multiple criteria are considered for student involvement:

- observations and results from the screenings
 - input from classroom teachers
 - classroom performance
- information gathered from participation in ACE
 - classroom, district, state testing

By nature of intervention, classes are small

Selection is partially relative in that the purpose is to meet the needs of students currently demonstrating the highest levels of potential and/or advanced readiness (based on available data) for rigorous work in a particular area.

HOW OFTEN WILL/CAN A CHILD PARTICPATE IN PRIME TIME?

- Can vary greatly
 - One placement does not guarantee further placements
- Children develop intellectual strengths in varying stages and at varying speeds
- Students may participate in only one unit throughout second and third grade
- Some students consistently demonstrate strength in many areas and could participate in Prime Time every semester
- The purpose is to serve those students demonstrating the greatest need for extended programming each semester.
 - Some student (even good students) may never participate in Prime Time
 - Most students' needs are met by the rigor and challenge offered in the grade level curriculum



WHAT IS THE PACT PROGRAM?

Serves fourth and fifth grade students

Similar to Prime Time

- semester long units are offered
- units vary in their content and focus
- students may be involved one semester and not another

Different from Prime Time

- screenings are given only to students in talent pool

Talent Pool

- lots of ways in, no way out
 - involvement in Prime Time
 - input from classroom teachers
 - classroom performance
 - classroom, district, state testing



HOW ARE STUDENTS SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN A PACT UNIT?

Multiple criteria is considered for student involvement:

- observations and results from the screenings
 - input from classroom teachers
 - classroom performance
- information gathered from participation in ACE
 - classroom, district, state testing

Decisions not made in isolation:

- PACT resource specialist and classroom teachers collaborate
 - consider all factors for any individual student
- while balancing it against the abilities, performances, and needs for all students



ARE THERE ANY OTHER OPTIONS FOR ADVANCED LEARNERS?

As time and schedules allow, “extra” or “bumper” classes are offered

PACT teacher and classroom teachers collaborate

Regardless, vast majority of student time is spent outside of PACT programming

Engagement and success needs to be nurtured in a comprehensive way

All students should be given the opportunity to work on the cusp of what they can do, what they do know, and that which they can't and don't.

Engagement resulting in continuous learning and growth is the goal!