

ALPHA

Advanced Learning Program for Higher Achievement
Intermediate 3rd - 5th



Who

The program is open to students in grades 3-5 based on the following criteria: combined scores from a cognitive test such as the Cogat, IA scores from ELA and Math, and DIBELS.

What

Advanced Learning Program for Higher Achievement (ALPHA) is a project-based class designed to meet the needs of the gifted student by enhancing what they are learning in the general classroom.

A variety of teaching approaches will be used in order for each child to fully develop their intellectual, creative, artistic, or leadership capabilities.

Flexibility is an important characteristic of the ALPHA program which allows each child to be nurtured based on their specific needs.

Why

Giftedness means many things. It means different things to different people, to society, and to gifted kids themselves. The term gifted and talented when used in respect to students, means students who give evidence of high achievement capability.

These capabilities are in the areas of: intellectual, creative, artistic, or leadership capacity, or in specific academic fields and who need services or activities that may not be provided by their general education classroom.

When

Each grade level meets once a week and will encompass the following topics: Power, Comparisons in rules and laws, Ecosystems, Environment, Cause and Effect, Citizenship, Economics, Social Action, Exploration, Culture, Ecology, Project Create, Settlement, Currency, and Measurement.

Course Aims & Outcomes

As a result of participating in ALPHA, students will be able to:

- Develop concepts related to different relationships.
- Work independently and collaboratively on certain projects.
- Will actively participate in solving various problems using specific problem solving techniques.
- Will participate in novel studies with rich, complex language, open-endedness to create reflection, and helpfulness in building problem-solving skills.
- Will develop research skills using various types of technology and resources.

Specific Learning Outcomes

As a result of participating in ALPHA, students will be able to:

- Provide examples, illustrations and salient features of different relationships.
- Form and revise questions for investigations.
- Use multiple sources to locate information for each question.
- Produce research projects and reports in effective formats using visuals to support the research.
- Develop analytical and interpretive skills in literature.
- Develop understanding of selected literary themes.
- Develop linguistic competency through vocabulary and language study.
- Develop skills in written and oral communication.
- Develop higher level thinking and reasoning skills in language arts.
- Develop research skills.

Communication

ALPHA students use the educational blog EDMODO to communicate directly to parents and interact with their teacher and each other.

Website: <http://www.emodo.com>

