



Emerson

S C H O O L

Lower School Academic Center for Enrichment (A.C.E.)

Objective: *To enrich and support curriculum design, instruction, and student achievement*

Faculty:

- Deb Pulte, 1-5 Language Arts Academic Specialist
- Gillian Ferrington, K-5 Math Academic Specialist

Focus:

- to provide enrichment to students through effective whole group practices, small group enrichments, and individualized learning activities
- to collaborate with teachers to develop differentiated lessons based on student's unique learning profiles, so that all are engaged and challenged
- to assist teachers with tracking data to determine the effectiveness of enrichments (i.e., math inventories, reading inventories, graded word lists)
- to implement a multi-disciplinary approach through the use of kinesthetic activities, the applied arts, technology, and the multiple intelligences
- to develop assessments as needed
- to collaborate with content and grade-level teams to promote an environment of cross-curricular critical thinking
- to assist teachers (through ongoing assessment) in identifying students, both returning and new, who might benefit from an extra layer of challenge
- to deliver content and instruction to students with purpose, passion, and a willingness to do "whatever it takes" to help students succeed

Prioritization of Student Enrichment:

- Students identified by faculty or academic administration who may benefit from enhanced academic activities
- Students who show a desire and willingness for academic challenges

Process:

- When an educator has determined that a student (or students) would benefit from academic enrichment, he or she should first bring this information to the Academic Enrichment Center. Enrichment is available to any student whose academic development suggests a need for enhanced activities.
- Teachers may request enrichment activities and lesson enhancement for their classroom, small groups, and/or individuals. Teachers may also request assistance in creating supplemental materials from the Academic Specialists.
- When a parent requests enrichment, he or she must first direct the request to the main classroom teacher. The classroom teacher will collaborate with the Academic Enrichment Specialists to determine how best to fill that need.

What Academic Specialists do not do:

- Provide services to students based solely upon parent request
- Make referrals to families for further testing of students
- Suggest a medical diagnosis of a student
- Work with the Counselor to develop educational plans
- Document classroom activities and accommodations
- Assist students with homework and classwork completion
- Offer remediation help to struggling students