

Mallard Creek STEM Academy (MCSA)

Academically & Intellectually Gifted (AIG) Plan

2016 – 2017

1. Mallard Creek STEM Academy Mission

- Mallard Creek STEM Academy will promote high academic achievement by increasing student engagement through a workshop model that encourages and empowers students to take ownership of their learning.

2. Process of Academically & Intellectually Gifted Identification

- During the 2016 – 2017 school year, MCSA will recognize the identification of students' AIG status based on respective testing, official documentation and identification from their prior schools and school districts. Students will remain AIG identified throughout their school careers at MCSA.
- Beginning this school year, 2016 – 2017, the AIG Coordinator will provide teachers with Professional Development opportunities related to the Six Profiles of a gifted child and the Twice Exceptional Student. These Professional Development sessions will provide teachers the opportunities to learn how gifted children might “look” and/or “behave” in the classroom, and what challenges may be present simultaneously, while addressing their needs, and provide tasks consisting of higher order thinking skills and supporting any challenges they may have, for example. The AIG Coordinator will continue to provide professional development opportunities and support to teachers' efforts while they begin the process of identifying students who might be AIG.
- Students could be nominated for AIG identification based on viable and substantiated observations and nominations by teachers, administrators, parents and other MCSA stakeholders. Students could be evaluated for possible AIG recommendation and identification using

- the Renzulli Scales, for example, and/or other approved assessment to determine possible giftedness in students selected for the process.
- As a result, nomination forms would be completed by teachers, parents, administrators, or interested stakeholders, parents/guardians would need to provide written consent for their student(s) to be evaluated as stated above before any assessments could be administered.

3. Mallard Creek STEM Academy - Inclusive Model in Education in support of AIG students

- MCSA classrooms will provide inclusive classrooms; heterogeneous grouping, allowing for differentiation across its spectrum, to support all students from AIG to EC, to those with dual-exceptionalities and those students who fall may between these continuums.
- MCSA teachers will be given support from both its AIG & EC Coordinators, academically, socially and physically, when needed, through differentiated lesson plan development, distribution and sharing of appropriate resources for each respective group, team teaching, modeling differentiated lessons and on-going training and professional development. The opportunity for differentiation will be on-going for all student levels (academic, social and physical), offering real-life scenarios and experiences for each student. Here, Common Core Standards are uniquely addressed.

4. Mallard Creek STEM Academy – STEM Model supporting AIG students

- MCSA will include a STEM curriculum throughout each learning day.
- “STEM is a curriculum based on the idea of educating students in four specific disciplines — science, technology, engineering and mathematics — in an interdisciplinary and applied approach. Rather than teach the four disciplines as separate and discrete subjects, STEM integrates them into a cohesive learning paradigm based on real-world.”

livescience.com/43296-what-is-stem-education.

- MCSA has in place a two-year partnership with Discovery Place's Education Studio in Charlotte, North Carolina, which will include its staff providing lesson plans and an enriched STEM curriculum to the teachers at MCSA. This enrichment opportunity will continue to engage, challenge and support the AIG students at MCSA, as well as the entire student body. Additionally, the staff at MCSA will receive on-going training and support over two years from Discovery Place to enhance STEM teaching the classroom.