

# Advanced Academic Programs (AAP)

## Overview of Available Elementary Services

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
Services Available for Grades K-6



Welcome to the Overview of Advanced Academic Programs services. This presentation will provide families with information about gifted services, known in FCPS as “Advanced Academic Programs, or “AAP.”

## Fairfax County Schools (FCPS) Beliefs

- All students deserve an excellent education.
- Students learn best when educators, parents, and students work together.
- High expectations lead to high performance.
- All students need opportunities to use strengths and pursue interests.

Fairfax County believes **all students deserve an excellent education** and **students learn best when educators, parents, and students work together** as partners. We also believe that when schools and families have **high expectations** for achievement, students will rise to meet the challenge. All students have unique strengths and interests. FCPS teachers work hard to provide **opportunities for students to use their strengths and pursue their interests.**

## Virginia Department of Education 'Gifted' Definition

“Gifted students means those students...  
who **demonstrate** high levels of accomplishment or  
who show the **potential** for higher levels of accomplishment  
when compared to others of the same age, experience, or  
environment.”

The Virginia Department of Education defines gifted students as those who **demonstrate** high levels of accomplishment or who show the **potential** for higher levels of accomplishment when compared to others of the same age, experience, or environment.

# Virginia Department of Education

## Gifted Regulation

All Virginia school divisions must:

- identify gifted students, and
- provide instructional services to meet their needs.

All Virginia school divisions are required to **identify gifted students** and to **provide instructional services** to meet their educational needs.



## FCPS VA Local Plan for the Gifted

Information related to FCPS Advanced Academic Services

### FCPS Local Plan for the Gifted 2016-2021

Each school division in Virginia develops a comprehensive plan for the education of the gifted. The FCPS Local Plan for the Gifted provides specific explanations of FCPS' implementation of Regulations Governing Educational Services for Gifted Students in Virginia.

The Virginia Department of Education requires schools to write a plan that details how gifted students will be identified and served. The plan must be approved by the local school board. **The FCPS Local Plan for the Gifted** can be found by going to [www.FCPS.edu](http://www.FCPS.edu) and searching “local plan.”

<https://www.fcps.edu/academics/academic-overview/advanced-academic-programs-aap/fcps-va-local-plan-gifted>

## Two **Goals** of the Advanced Academic Programs

---

FCPS AAP strives to develop the talents of all students and provide challenge through:

- **Talent development**
- **Differentiation** to meet the needs of **advanced learners**.

There are many pathways for students to access AAP and rigorous learning opportunities in FCPS through elementary, middle, and high school.

Fairfax County Public Schools Advanced Academic Programs has two main goals: talent development and differentiation to meet the needs of advanced learners.

## Talent Development

### What does Talent Development look like in Fairfax County Public Schools?

- Instructional opportunities to use AAP curriculum and strategies.
- Working with students to identify and explore areas of interest.
- Attention to underrepresented groups through the Young Scholars Model.

Our focus on talent development reflects our beliefs that ALL students in FCPS need opportunities to work with rigorous curriculum and go in more depth in areas of strength and interest. Students also need opportunities to develop ownership of their learning through reflection, goal-setting, and identifying areas of interest. And, while we recognize the importance of talent development for all of our students, we also know that support services, like those found in our Young Scholars model, are important to identify and nurture students in groups historically underrepresented in gifted programs.

## **Differentiation to Meet the Needs of Advanced Learners**

### **What does Differentiating for Advanced Learners mean in Fairfax County Public Schools?**

- Meeting students' needs to go beyond grade level standards by name and need.
- Ensuring access to differentiated curriculum and environment including different pacing, increased depth and complexity, and removing scaffolds.
- Ensuring time to work with similar academic peer group to ensure peer-to-peer feedback to promote growth.
- Academic advising and complementary supports for success through implementation of the Young Scholars model.

Differentiation to meet the needs of advanced learners reflects our beliefs that all students must be met by name and by need. FCPS AAP offers a continuum of services to provide multiple entry points so that all students access the level of service that meets their cognitive and affective needs. Our goal is to ensure all students have access to a research-based, differentiated curriculum and academic peer group.

## AAP Continuum of Services

AAP offers a continuum of services to challenge and engage all students K-12. Our goals are:

- Provide deeper learning and talent development opportunities to all students
- Identify and build upon student strengths and abilities
- Provide multiple entry points to meet diverse student needs through the continuum of services

We believe talent can be nurtured and developed in all students. AAP services for a student may change over time.

The FCPS Local Plan for the Gifted includes a continuum of advanced academic services to provide challenging learning experiences to all students.

Schools partner with families to **identify each student's strengths and abilities**. Students are **matched with the level of AAP** service to meet student needs at the time. We believe academic potential can be **nurtured and developed** through access to advanced academic curricula and strategies. As students develop talents and build on strengths, the **AAP services needed may change over time**.

We believe academic potential can be **nurtured and developed** through access to advanced academic curricula and strategies. As students develop talents and build on strengths, the **AAP services needed may change over time**.

## Advanced Academic Programs Overview

Young Scholars Model - All K-12 Students		
Elementary School: K-6	Middle School	High School
Access to Rigor (Level I)	IB Middle Years Program – Grades 6 -10 (selected schools)	
Subject Specific Advanced Differentiation (Level II)	Honors Courses in areas of Academic Strength/Interest Grades 7-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Honors Courses</li> <li>• Advanced Placement (AP)</li> <li>• International Baccalaureate (IB)</li> <li>• Dual Enrollment Courses</li> <li>• Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology</li> </ul>
Part-Time Services (Level III)		
Full-Time Services - Grades 3-8 (Level IV)		

*Adapted from the Integrated Continuum of Special Services by Sally Reis and Levels of Service by Donald Treffinger.*

This is a big picture overview of the continuum of AAP services available in FCPS elementary, middle, and high schools. You will notice that The **Young Scholars Model** [red box comes in] is available to students at all school levels, K-12. Let's learn a little more about this model.

## **Advanced Academic Programs**

Grades K-12

### **Young Scholars Model**

The FCPS **Young Scholars Model** seeks to identify and affirm, from an early age, students with high academic potential from groups historically underrepresented in advanced academic programming.

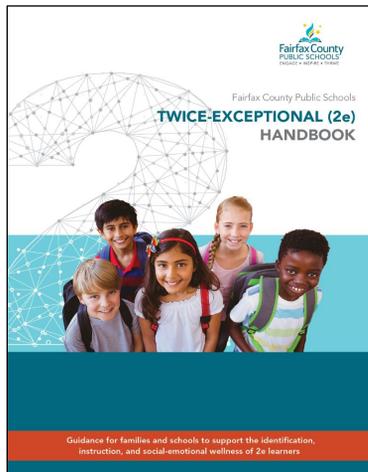
The goal of the model is to eliminate barriers for Young Scholars' access to and success in advanced academic opportunities in elementary, middle, and high school.

The FCPS Young Scholars model seeks to identify and affirm, from an early age, students with high academic potential from groups historically underrepresented in advanced academic programming. The goal of the model is to eliminate barriers for Young Scholars' access to and success in advanced academic opportunities in elementary, middle, and high school.

Young Scholars also receive subject specific advanced differentiation, part-time services, or full-time services – depending on their needs. The Young Scholars label stays through grade 12 so that as students transition from elementary to middle to high school, teachers and school counselors understand the student has potential and needs to access advanced academic opportunities.

## Advanced Academic Programs

### Twice-Exceptional (2e) Students



Twice-exceptional (2e) students have exceptional abilities and exceptional learning challenges.

FCPS 2e Handbook:  
Go to [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu)  
and search **2e**

Some gifted students also have learning disabilities. These twice-exceptional, or “2e” students need strengths-based instruction. Their learning challenges also must be supported. FCPS has created a 2e handbook to help schools and families understand how to identify and serve 2e students. You can find these resources by going to [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu) and searching “2e”.

# Advanced Academic Programs **AAP ELEMENTARY SERVICES**

Grades K-6

**Advanced Academic Programs**

**LEVELS OF SERVICE in ELEMENTARY school, Grades K-6**

## Advanced Academic Programs Overview

Young Scholars Model - All K-12 Students

Elementary School: K-6	Middle School	High School
Access to Rigor (Level I)	IB Middle Years Program – Grades 6 -10 (selected schools)	
Subject Specific Advanced Differentiation (Level II)	Honors Courses in areas of Academic Strength/Interest Grades 7-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Honors Courses</li> <li>• Advanced Placement (AP)</li> <li>• International Baccalaureate (IB)</li> <li>• Dual Enrollment Courses</li> <li>• Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology</li> </ul>
Part-Time Services (Level III)		
Full-Time Services - Grades 3-8 (Level IV)		

*Adapted from the Integrated Continuum of Special Services by Sally Reis and Levels of Service by Donald Treffinger.*

Let's take a closer look at opportunities for advanced academic services in elementary school.

## Advanced Academic Programs Overview

Young Scholars Model - All K-12 Students

Elementary School: K-6	Middle School	High School
Access to Rigor (Level I)	IB Middle Years Program – Grades 6 -10 (selected schools)	
Subject Specific Advanced Differentiation (Level II)	Honors Courses in areas of Academic Strength/Interest Grades 7-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Honors Courses</li> <li>• Advanced Placement (AP)</li> <li>• International Baccalaureate (IB)</li> <li>• Dual Enrollment Courses</li> <li>• Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology</li> </ul>
Part-Time Services (Level III)		
Full-Time Services - Grades 3-8 (Level IV)		

*Adapted from the Integrated Continuum of Special Services by Sally Reis and Levels of Service by Donald Treffinger.*

First we will look at Level I AAP services in elementary school: Access to Rigor.

## ELEMENTARY

Grades K-6

### AAP

### Access to Rigor:

Level I

**Access for all  
students**

**All students** have opportunities to think critically, reason, and problem-solve.

- Critical and creative thinking strategies are used in lessons
- Teachers use advanced academic curriculum each quarter

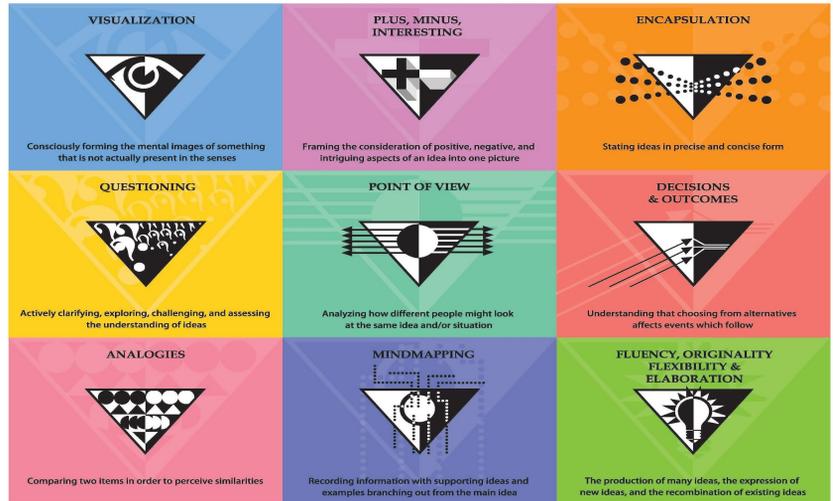
It is important for all students to engage in higher level thinking. Access to Rigor services includes teaching students to use critical and creative thinking skills to process content. It also includes periodic opportunities to use advanced academic curriculum throughout each quarter.

## Critical and Creative Thinking Strategies

**ELEMENTARY**  
Grades K-6

**AAP**  
**Access to Rigor:**  
Level I

**Critical and  
Creative Thinking  
Strategies**



Adapted from the work of Dr. Edward de Bono and Dr. Richard Paul

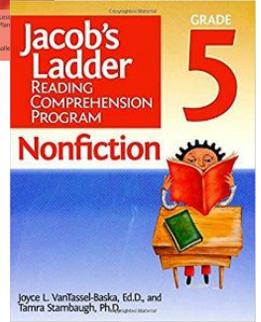
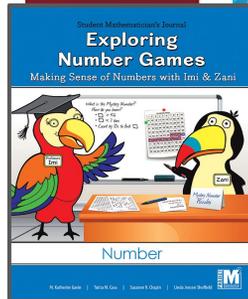
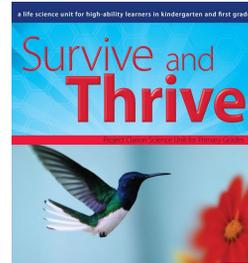
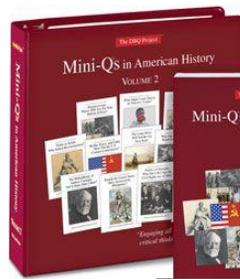
Here are the nine critical and creative thinking, or “CCT”, strategies taught in FCPS. Teachers can use CCT thinking strategies in every subject area and at every grade level. Critical and Creative thinking strategies help students help all students learn content at a deeper level.

To learn more about CCTs and how you can use them at home, talk to the Advanced Academic Resource Teacher at your child’s school. You can also go to [www.FCPS.edu](http://www.FCPS.edu) and search “CCT Strategies.”

## ELEMENTARY Grades K-6

**AAP**  
**Access to Rigor:**  
Level I

**AAP Curricular  
Resources**



Access to Rigor services includes periodic opportunities for all students to use advanced academic curriculum throughout each quarter.

**ELEMENTARY**  
Grades K-6

**AAP**

**Access to Rigor:**  
Level I

All students in FCPS receive Access to Rigor (Level I) Services as a part of their Tier I Instruction.

No referrals or screening process needed.

**Access for all  
students**

All students in FCPS receive Access to Rigor services as a part of their Tier 1 Instruction. Referrals do not need to be submitted for Access to Rigor as there is not a screening process.

## Advanced Academic Programs Overview

Young Scholars Model - All K-12 Students

Elementary School: K-6	Middle School	High School
Access to Rigor (Level I)	IB Middle Years Program – Grades 6 -10 (selected schools)	
Subject Specific Advanced Differentiation (Level II)	Honors Courses in areas of Academic Strength/Interest Grades 7-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Honors Courses</li> <li>• Advanced Placement (AP)</li> <li>• International Baccalaureate (IB)</li> <li>• Dual Enrollment Courses</li> <li>• Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology</li> </ul>
Part-Time Services (Level III)		
Full-Time Services - Grades 3-8 (Level IV)		

*Adapted from the Integrated Continuum of Special Services by Sally Reis and Levels of Service by Donald Treffinger.*

Next we will look at Subject Specific Advanced Differentiation AAP services

## ELEMENTARY

Grades K-6

### AAP Subject Specific Advanced Differentiation: Level II

Some students are strong in **one or more specific subject areas**. Classroom teachers may adjust instruction for students in these areas by:

- Providing different assignments and resources in those subjects
- Grouping students by their strengths, interests, and readiness

Some students have academic strengths in one or more subject areas. To meet the needs of these students, teachers may adjust the complexity of the instruction, also referred to as “differentiating up.” They provide more frequent and intense use of AAP curriculum and strategies in areas of strength through **different assignments** or using different resources. They may also **group students by their strengths, interests, and readiness**.

The classroom teacher can provide more details about how they differentiate instruction. The AART co-plans and shares ideas about AAP resources with classroom teachers.

## ELEMENTARY

Grades K-6

### AAP Subject Specific Advanced Differentiation: Level II

Parents, guardians, and teachers may refer a child for Subject Specific Advanced Differentiation (Level II) AAP services.

- Submit a referral form to the AART.
- Parents/Guardians will be notified after 30 business days regarding eligibility for subject specific AAP services.
- In May, all students are also considered for school based services for the following school year.

Subject-specific AAP Services are re-evaluated each year at the local school.

Parents and guardians may refer their child to be screened for Subject Specific Advanced Differentiation at the local school. All students are screened during school-based screening in May. For consideration outside of the May window, please submit a referral form to the AART. The local school screening committee will determine eligibility and notify parents/guardians of the decision within 30 business days.

**Services are re-evaluated** each year based on subject area strengths students are showing at that time.

For more information, please contact the AART at your local school.

## Advanced Academic Programs Overview

Young Scholars Model - All K-12 Students

Elementary School: K-6	Middle School	High School
Access to Rigor (Level I)	IB Middle Years Program – Grades 6 -10 (selected schools)	
Subject Specific Advanced Differentiation (Level II)	Honors Courses in areas of Academic Strength/Interest Grades 7-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Honors Courses</li> <li>Advanced Placement (AP)</li> <li>International Baccalaureate (IB)</li> <li>Dual Enrollment Courses</li> <li>Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology</li> </ul>
Part-Time Services (Level III)		
Full-Time Services - Grades 3-8 (Level IV)		

*Adapted from the Integrated Continuum of Special Services by Sally Reis and Levels of Service by Donald Treffinger.*

Next let's look at Part-Time AAP Services

## ELEMENTARY

Grades 3-6

### AAP Part-Time Services:

Level III

Some students have advanced academic abilities in **multiple subject areas**. They need AAP part-time services.

AARTs and classroom teachers provide opportunities to work with a cluster group of students with similar academic needs in Language Arts, science, social studies, and/or mathematics.

Some students have advanced academic abilities in multiple subject areas. They need AAP part-time services.

AARTs work directly with students to provide curriculum designed for gifted learners. Sometimes AARTs work with groups of students within their regular classroom through flexible grouping opportunities. Sometimes small groups are pulled to work together in the AART's classroom, typically once a week.

The AART will work with the classroom teacher to deliver advanced curriculum to identified students.

## **ELEMENTARY**

Grades 3-6

### **AAP Part-Time Services:** Level III

Parents, guardians, and teachers may refer a child for AAP Part-Time services.

- Submit a Level II/III referral form to the AART.
- Parents/Guardians will be notified after 30 business days regarding eligibility for Level III.
- In May, all students are considered for school based services for the next school year.

AAP part-time services continue through Grade 6. Students do not need to be evaluated each year.

Parents and guardians may refer their child to be screened for Part-Time services at the local school. All students are screened during school-based screening in May. For consideration outside of the May window, please submit a referral form to the AART. The local school screening committee will determine eligibility and notify parents/guardians of the decision within 30 business days.

Once students are found eligible for Level III services, eligibility continues through 6th grade. Students do not need to be re-evaluated for Part-Time services each year.

For more information, please contact the AART at your local school.

## Advanced Academic Programs Overview

Young Scholars Model - All K-12 Students

Elementary School: K-6	Middle School	High School
Access to Rigor (Level I)	IB Middle Years Program – Grades 6 -10 (selected schools)	
Subject Specific Advanced Differentiation (Level II)	Honors Courses in areas of Academic Strength/Interest Grades 7-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Honors Courses</li> <li>Advanced Placement (AP)</li> <li>International Baccalaureate (IB)</li> <li>Dual Enrollment Courses</li> <li>Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology</li> </ul>
Part-Time Services (Level III)		
Full-Time Services - Grades 3-8 (Level IV)		

*Adapted from the Integrated Continuum of Special Services by Sally Reis and Levels of Service by Donald Treffinger.*

Now let's look at Full-Time AAP services in elementary school.

## ELEMENTARY

Grades 3-6

### AAP Full-Time Services: Level IV

Some advanced learners need a full-time advanced academic program, including differentiated instruction in all 4 content areas and access to a peer group with similar academic needs.

Students eligible for full-time AAP services receive:

- Advanced Language Arts, mathematics, science, and social studies curriculum, and
- Curriculum that is differentiated through acceleration, depth, and complexity of content.

Some students' development requires an environment where they can learn at a faster pace and with greater intensity of advanced curriculum. It is important for these students to work with peers who have similar academic needs and with a teacher who understands advanced learners. Academic peer groups are important to ensure that students learn and grow in collaborative environments.

Students eligible for full-time AAP services receive advanced Language Arts, science, and social studies curriculum. They receive math curriculum at least one year above grade level. A student does not have to be eligible for AAP level IV/full time services to qualify for advanced math classes. Advanced mathematics is considered a level II AAP service.

Students need to be screened for full-time services.

## ELEMENTARY

Grades 3-6

### AAP Full-Time Services: Level IV

Parents, guardians, and teachers may refer a child to be screened for AAP full-time services.

- **Fall Screening** (only available to students who are new to FCPS since January) - referral and optional materials are due by **October 15**.
- **Spring Screening** - referral and optional materials are due by **December 15**.
- Parents/Guardians will be notified according to the published **Testing and Identification Timeline**.

AAP full-time services continue through Grade 8. Students do not need to be evaluated each year.

Parents/guardians may refer their child to be screened by submitting a referral form to the school. Level IV screening has set deadlines that are published at the start of each school year. Please be sure to submit a referral no later than the deadline. Once students are found eligible for Level IV services, eligibility continues through 8th grade. Students do not need to be re-evaluated for Level IV services each year. For more information, please contact the AART at your local school.

## ELEMENTARY

Grades K-6

### Universal Ability Testing

What part does ability testing play in the screening process?

- Best practices in matching students to AAP services includes looking at the whole student.
- Ability testing is one of several data points considered in student portfolios.
- Ability testing is not weighted more than other items in student portfolios.

Universal testing means that all students take an ability test. Universal screening test is just one part of a holistic approach to matching students to available AAP services in FCPS.

FCPS AAP offers a continuum of services -- access to rigor without identification, advanced differentiation in specific content areas, part-time services, and full-time services. Each entry point supports students getting their cognitive and affective needs met.

Multiple criteria are reviewed as a whole to determine eligibility for all FCPS advanced academic services. FCPS uses ability testing as one part of the holistic screening process for AAP services. Test scores are not weighted or prioritized in the holistic screening process.

## ELEMENTARY

Grades K-6

### Ability Testing

FCPS offers two ability tests to all students  
(universal screener):

- Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT) in Grade 1
- Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) in Grade 2

### One-time Retest Option

- Parents/Guardians may request the one-time retest of either the NNAT or CogAT by contacting the school testing coordinator.
  - CogAT Retest Deadline: September 15
  - NNAT Retest Deadline: October 15

All students in grades 1-2 take an ability test. When tests are given to everyone regardless of referral, this is called “universal screening.”

If a parent feels that a test score does not reflect their student’s abilities, there is an option for a one-time retest option for either the Naglieri Nonverbal Abilities Test (NNAT) or CogAT test in grades 3-7. To request the one-time retest, of either the CogAT or the NNAT, please contact the school testing coordinator.

The deadline to let your local school know that you would like to activate your one-time retest option is September 15 for the CogAT and October 15 for the NNAT.

## Who to Contact

### Elementary Schools:

- Melanie Jewell, Advanced Academic Resource Teacher (AART)
- Teresa Lewis, Assistant Principal/School Testing Coordinator

### AAP Office:

- 571-423-4740
- [AAP@fcps.edu](mailto:AAP@fcps.edu)

If you have questions about the FCPS Advanced Academic Programs Overview, please contact your child's school.

In elementary schools, you may contact the Advanced Academic Resource Teacher or "AART."

In middle schools, the Advanced Academic Resource Teacher or "AART", the Director of Student Services, or the school counselor can provide more information about advanced academic programs.

You may also call the AAP office at 571-423-4740, or send an email to [AAP@fcps.edu](mailto:AAP@fcps.edu)

## Secondary Advanced Academic Programs

### Middle School Contacts

- AART
- Director of Student Services
- School Counselor

### High School Contacts

- Director of Student Services
- School Counselor

Please visit our website for additional information regarding opportunities available in middle school and high school.

In middle schools, the Advanced Academic Resource Teacher, Director of Student Services, or school counselors can provide more information about advanced academic program opportunities.

At high school, the Director of Student Services, or school counselors can provide more information about advanced academic program opportunities.

The FCPS AAP website also contains information regarding Advanced Academic Programs in middle school and high school.

For more information: [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu)

The screenshot shows a web browser at the URL <https://www.fcps.edu>. The page features a navigation bar with links for LANGUAGE, SEARCH, FULL MENU, ABOUT FCPS, SCHOOLS, ACADEMICS, CALENDAR, CONTACT US, and SCHOOL BOARD. Below the navigation bar is a dark blue menu with links for FCPS 24-7 Learning, SIS, G Suite, Library, Lunch Menus, MySchoolBucks, and Employee Resources. A search bar is visible with the text "Search FCPS" and a search icon. The search bar contains the text "AAP". Below the search bar are two buttons: "Search" and "Cancel".

1. Select **SEARCH** on the home page

2. Enter **AAP** in search field

For more information about Advanced Academic Programs, go to [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu) and search "AAP."



[www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu)