

**Certification Report  
Advanced Learning  
2007-2008 School Year**

**School Hay Elementary School Program Advance Learning  
Opportunities**

The Pathways Enrichment program took *root* from the belief that educational experiences must target the unique academic and learning needs of every child. It *grew* from the intention to provide varied instructional settings and experiences that are tailored to the unique needs of the advanced learner, while supporting the integrity and consistency of the classroom experience. The program has *blossomed* into a program that serves 75-90 third, fourth and fifth grade children who demonstrate above standard performance in reading, writing, communication, and or mathematics. Participation in the program is optional and is based on student interest and commitment, teacher recommendation, parent approval, standardized test scores, and consistent above standard classroom performance.

In Pathways, instruction is based upon application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Higher order thinking is integrated into all facets of the Pathways experience and demonstrated through writing, discussion, projects and presentations. The Pathways experience takes many forms, with a variety of options for the advanced learner. The classroom teacher, in consultation with the Enrichment Specialist, collaborates to design an advanced learning opportunity that most benefits the child. An advanced learner may participate in one or several of these programs as suited to his/her needs, available time and learning style. The availability of each of the Pathways programs is dependent on the faculty recommendations regarding the needs of the student population for any given year.

**Advanced Reading:** These ability groups bring advanced students together for instruction and incorporation of higher-order thinking skills, practice in literacy and communication. Students are recommended by the classroom teacher based on consistent, above-standard performance in reading and writing as demonstrated in the classroom during the first month of the school year. Students are taught to standards that are one year above grade level.

**Math and Literacy Enrichment groups:** These Enrichment clusters meet once or twice per week for intensive higher order thinking practice relating to literacy and/or math. Writing or math strategies are introduced, explored and practiced via in-class exercises and/or out-of-group activities to be completed during extra classroom time or at home.

**Math Mania:** This enrichment cluster program is offered to third grade students who are performing above grade level in writing and math. It serves as excellent preparation for the enrichment activities offered in the fourth and fifth grades.

**Math Olympiad:** Students are welcomed to participate in this standards-based program after demonstrating above standard ability in computation skills and a desire for acceleration and challenge in math problem solving, computation, and collaboration. The program meets after school once or twice a week and culminates in a regional math competition held in the spring.

**Peaks- Projects Extending Achievement for Kids Above Standard: PEAKS** meets one hour per week as an enrichment cluster group to facilitate independent project learning based around a given theme. Students must meet minimum standardized test scores and receive a teacher recommendation and parent approval to participate. Integrated projects serve as diagnostic tools, evidence of student learning and synthesis of skills, forums for instruction and practice of communication standards, and integration of student interest and applied learning. Cooperative learning and group collaboration is used to boost motivation, accountability and promote real life learning experiences.

The development of the Pathways Enrichment program has had a significant impact on our school community and the attitudes of the population served, as well as, highlighting the importance of identifying the unique needs of the advanced learner. Parent response and support have been overwhelmingly positive. In addition, the number of students leaving John Hay in favor of a Spectrum or APP site has dropped dramatically.