

**Certification Report
Advanced Learning
Posted January 2004**

School High Point Elementary

Program Spectrum

High Point Elementary School is offering *Spectrum* program for district identified students in grades three through five during the 2005-2006 school year. Spectrum-eligible students, grades 3-5, who enroll at High Point will be clustered together for instruction and receive differentiated instruction within the framework of flexible grouping strategies that allow for acceleration as appropriate.

We recognize that differentiating instruction is critical to the development of Spectrum students. High Point embraces this notion because we know that it is not necessarily a teaching strategy, but rather a way of teaching and learning. It is a philosophy that is based on a well-defined set of principles. Expert or distinguished teaching focuses on the understanding and skills of a discipline, causes students to wrestle with profound ideas, helps students organize and make sense of ideas and information, and aids students in connecting the classroom with a wider world (Brandt, 1998; Danielson, 1996). It is, therefore, our goal to take the students from where they are and build on their individual base of knowledge. Instruction will be organized in a manner that encourages the child to explore deeper and that will add rigor to daily studies. We understand that sheer lecture does not meet the needs of all students. Thus, tremendous emphasis is placed on teaching complex thinking skills.

Curriculum organization is critical in a well-defined program. We view an organized curriculum as one that considers the various instructional methods that promote the academic growth and development of students. Some of these methods include the formation of flexible groups; developing agendas for students so they might engage in cooperative groups, independent study, research projects, or seminars; and field experiences that promote specific areas of study.