

**Thurgood Marshall Elementary
Advanced Learning Academy
2007-2008 School Year**

School T. Marshall Elementary School Program Advanced Learning Opportunities

The Advanced Learning Opportunity Program at Thurgood Marshall Elementary School is referred to as the Advanced Learning Academy, and serves identified literacy students in gender-separate, multiage classrooms. Due to class-size considerations, additional students are included as part of the Advanced Learning Academy which in effect creates a blended inclusion model.

Thurgood Marshall has a comprehensive view of advanced learners and uses a variety of means to identify students. These include: standardized achievement measures, performance-based assessments, a student's pace at which he/she learns, the ability to solve problems and reason critically, the desire for challenge, and leadership skills.

The school's stated goal is to utilize an inclusion service delivery model for advanced learners based on differentiating the curriculum. Each child has a Thurgood Marshall Individual Learning Plan, which is developed collaboratively by the teacher, parent, and student. The plan is periodically updated and used by teachers to inform their curriculum. All instruction, student assignments, and learning outcomes are established, rigorous, guided, and evaluated in relation to the Seattle Public School standards for reading, and communication.

Some of the many strategies and opportunities Thurgood Marshall utilizes are:

- ❖ Literacy and Poetry Nights-Students have the opportunity to read aloud from Informational and Literary texts to their peers and families. Urban League- (1000 hours of Reading)-This program assists students with learning to journal their reading process and self-evaluate their reading strategies.
- ❖ 90 minute Literacy blocks-All students receive a literacy block of time everyday grouped by heterogeneous grade level ability. The use of chapter books, literature circles and reading projects provides various opportunities to reach all learners.
- ❖ Staff participates in an 8-week collaboration process in September and March of each year in order to analyze student reading assessment data.

Teachers regularly move students beyond simple recall and comprehension into the higher order thinking skills of application, synthesis, evaluation, and creativity. Students regularly receive curriculum content that is accelerated and complex. The clear expectation is that all students will exceed grade level standards.

Thurgood Marshall has high academic standards and social expectations for all students a they have crystallized this vision with the slogan "Excellence without Excuses". Staff members are extremely motivated and fully committed to raising the achievement levels of all students, including advanced learners.