



# Community-Based Level IV Advanced Academics Program Parent Orientation

February 5, 2025

# Information Session Overview

## **Part 1**

Overview of AAP/Honors programs at the middle school level

## **Part 2**

Structure of the Local Level IV Community Based Program at Thoreau Middle School

# Honors Classes

(in all 26 middle schools)

**Open Access**  
to Honors  
courses-  
available in  
four core  
subjects

Students  
select Honors  
in  
**1, 2, 3, or 4**  
core classes

Students learn  
with others  
who also  
selected  
advanced  
courses

Teachers  
**differentiate**  
to meet  
students'  
academic  
needs

Teachers  
participate  
in **AAP**  
**Professional  
Learning**  
through weekly  
content  
meetings and  
county  
offerings

Students eligible for full-time AAP services may choose to stay at their base school and take Honors courses.

# Thoreau MS Honors Classes

Student  
choice/voice in  
selecting  
“Standard” vs  
“Honors” level  
courses

**Open Enrollment**  
English 7 HN  
Life Science HN\*  
US History 7 HN\*  
Math 7 HN  
*\*new for 2025-2026*

Teachers  
incorporate  
AAP resources  
and strategies

# Full-Time AAP Centers

(14 of 26 middle schools are designated centers)

Students are found eligible through a **central screening process**

Students access advanced curriculum for **4 core subjects**

(mathematics placement is based on readiness)

Students are in classes with other eligible students-- **academic peer group**

(mathematics class may be a mix)

Teachers **differentiate** to meet students' academic needs

Teachers participate in **AAP Professional Learning**

# Thoreau Middle School

## Community Based Local Level IV AAP Program

AAP Level IV Center eligible students select Thoreau Middle School, which is their base school, instead of the designated AAP center school

Students stay with their base school for grades 7 & 8  
These students then continue to their base high school for grades 9-12

Level IV Center eligible students are placed in classes only with other Level IV center eligible students for 3 of 4 core subjects  
  
(English, science and social studies)

## Honors Classes

- Open enrollment: students and families self-select classes in areas of strength or interest
- Increased depth and complexity in specific subject areas
- Students learn with other students who have chosen to be challenged academically in that subject area
- Students may enroll in 1, 2, 3, or 4 Honors courses
- Offered in all middle schools

## Full-Time AAP Services

- Students are found eligible through central screening process
- Increased depth, complexity, and pace in all subjects
- Students identified as having high intellectual ability are clustered in classes with peers
- Students are in advanced classes for all 4 core subject areas (math class is based on readiness)
- 14 schools are designated as centers

## Looking forward to High School

What are the AAP opportunities in high school?

Open enrollment opportunities:

- [Honors](#) (grades 9-12)
- [Advanced Placement \(AP\) courses](#) (primarily in grades 11-12)
- [International Baccalaureate \(IB\) courses](#) (grades 11-12)
- [Dual-enrollment courses](#) (grades 11-12)



## Looking forward to High School

Additional opportunities for which students can register or apply:

- [FCPS High School Academies and Specialized Programs](#) (for juniors and seniors)
- [Summer Residential Governor's Schools](#) (rising 11 and 12)
- [Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology](#) (apply in grade 8)

# Community Based Local Level IV AAP Services

How do we meet the needs of our  
advanced learners at Thoreau?



**THOREAU**  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

# A key difference to note

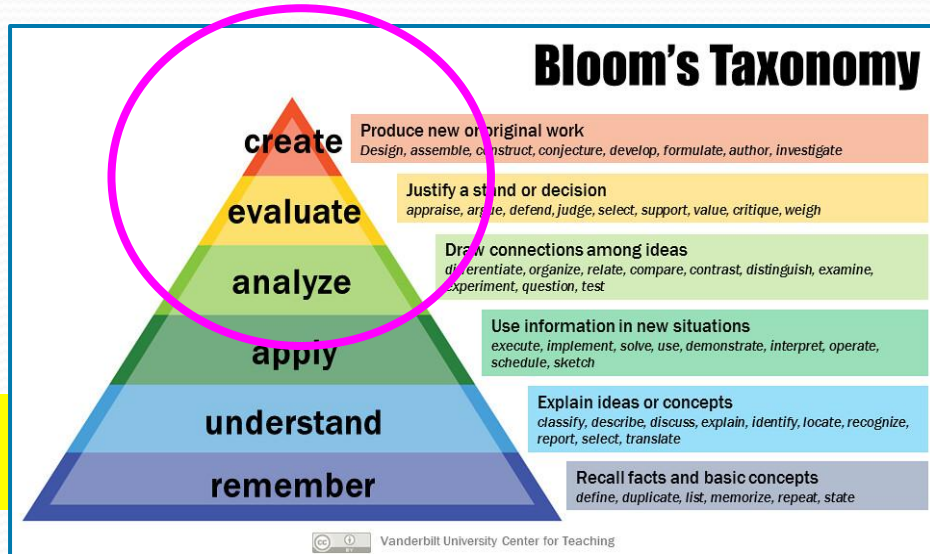
At the middle school level, there is not a separate AAP curriculum. Instead, there are **extension standards** infused into the curriculum.

Here is an example from the Science 7 program of studies:

## LS 1 Plan & Conduct Investigations

Indicator 1.c.1 Essential: Select and use appropriate tools and techniques for collecting data

- **Extension**: Evaluate the need for a universal system of measurement.



# So, how do we meet the needs of advanced learners?

## Differentiation

<p><b>Content</b></p>	<p>Quantity and immersion with <b>extension standards</b> and tasks that elicit <b>higher levels</b> of Bloom's outcomes</p>	<p>History 7 example:  <u>Essential standard</u> :USII.3 The student will apply social science skills to understand the effects of Reconstruction on American life  <b>Extension standard: Interpret the influences of federal government policies</b> on westward expansion from multiple perspectives.</p>
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<p><b>Process</b></p> <p><u>Critical &amp; Creative Thinking Strategies (CCT)</u></p> <p><u>Thinking Routines</u></p> <p><u>Portrait of a Graduate</u></p>	<div data-bbox="666 507 1381 868"> <p><b>ANALOGIES</b>  <i>Comparing two items in order to perceive similarities</i>                  NAMES: Claire &amp; Piper</p> <p><b>CCT</b></p> <p>Acadia Park -Tundra and Boreal Forest- <b>IS LIKE</b> [Image of fencers]</p> <p><b>POG</b></p> <p>DEMONSTRATION OF GROWTH                  Insert images from the entire process that you feel demonstrate how you grew over the span of this project.</p> <p>BECAUSE: Many species living in Acadia compete for resources like t in a fencing match compete for a trophy.</p> <p><b>Collaborator</b></p> <p><b>Ethical and Global Citizen</b></p> </div>
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<p><b>Product</b></p> <p>Project-based assessments                  Real-world assessments                  Assessments that offer choice</p>	<p><b>Debate</b></p> <p><b>Socratic Seminar</b></p> 
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**Class Composition:** grouped with other level IV AAP students  
Often resulting in a higher level of discourse & discussion



## Differentiation Features Applied to Content, Process, & Product

Acceleration	Complexity	Depth	Creativity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fewer tasks assigned to master standard</li><li>• Assessed earlier or prior to teaching</li><li>• Clustered by higher order thinking skills</li><li>• Advanced resources employed</li><li>• Sophisticated content</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Used multiple higher level skills</li><li>• Added more variables to study</li><li>• Required multiple resources</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Studied a concept in multiple applications</li><li>• Conducted original research</li><li>• Developed a product</li><li>• Cross-disciplinary applications made</li><li>• Reasoning made explicit</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Designed/constructed a model based on principles or criteria</li><li>• Provided alternatives for tasks, products, &amp; assessments</li><li>• Emphasized oral &amp; written communication to real world audience</li></ul>

# Middle School Mathematics

## Math 7

7<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum

## Math 7 Honors

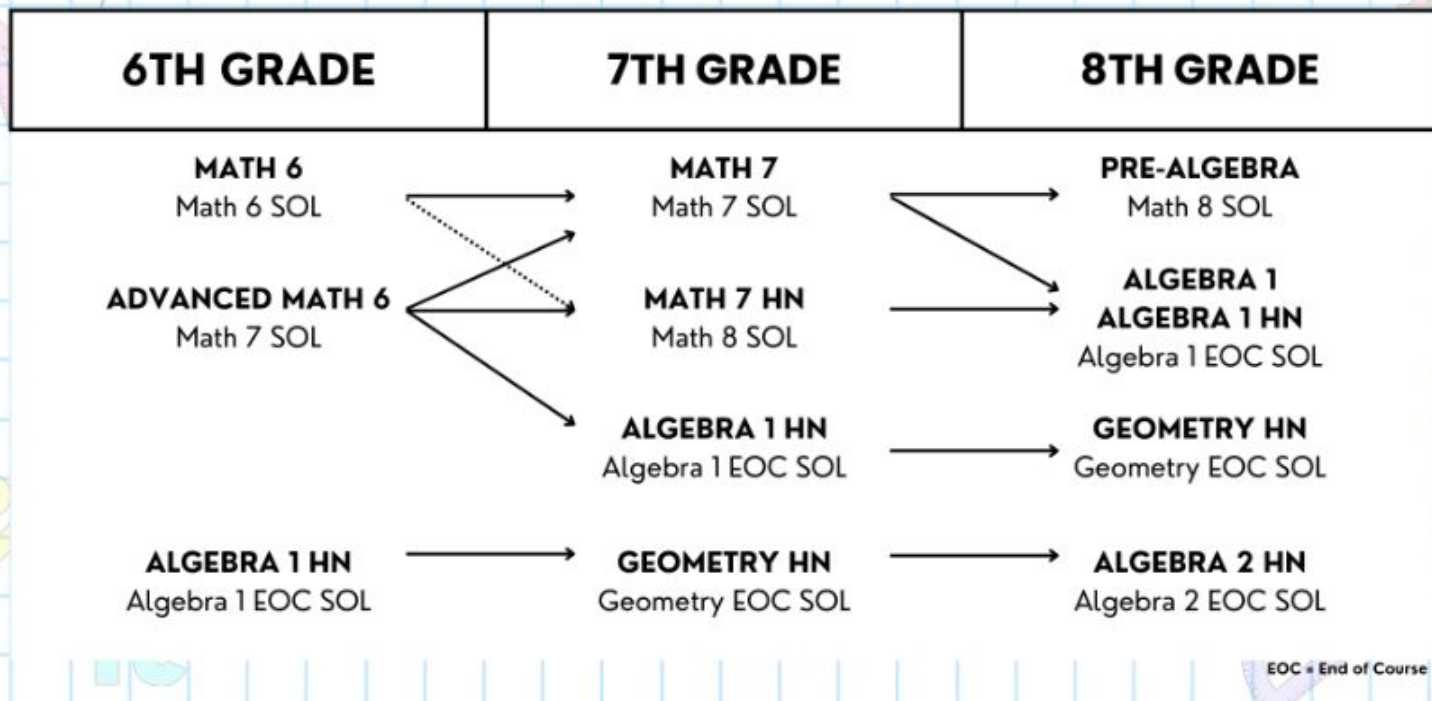
8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum

## Algebra I Honors

91% on IAAT and

Pass Advanced (500+) on Grade 7<sup>th</sup> SOL

# MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH PROGRESSION



# Community-Based Level IV AAP Services

Why do we offer this program?

Student Transition

Community School

Parent Request and Support





# Structure of Our Program

## Section

- The equivalent of a “class” in middle school
- We use sections to group and schedule students
- Each section in the master schedule has a unique course ID
- Level IV *center eligible* students that choose to come to TMS are placed in sections according to this unique course ID designated for center eligible students for English, science and social studies (pre-loaded in SIS and ends in -38)

## Math Placement

- Based on individual student data

## Electives and Health & Physical Education

- Scheduled with grade level peers

## Current Registration Information

Center-eligible students currently attending Local Level IV elementary schools are already assigned to **Thoreau Middle School- you are in our system already**

Center-eligible students currently attending Level IV center elementary schools are already assigned to **Luther Jackson or Kilmer MS- you are not in our system**

**The deadline to make a change to this placement is  
Saturday, March 1, 2025**

***Please use the Google Form sent to all centrally identified  
Full Time Level 4 Eligible Families in December***

# The choice is yours!

**Community Based Local Level IV Experience at Thoreau Middle School**

**Center-based Level IV Program at  
Luther Jackson Middle School  
or Kilmer Middle School**

***... until March 1, 2025 when we will  
be on a space-available basis***



## Advanced Academics at Thoreau:

- Hannah Converse,  
Advanced Academics  
Resource Teacher  
Thoreau Middle School  
703-846-8149  
hpconverse@fcps.edu

## AAP Office:

- Lawrence W. Randolph, Ed.D.  
Fairfax County Public Schools  
MS Education Specialist,  
Advanced Academic Programs
- 571-423-4740
  - AAP@fcps.edu

# Visit our classrooms!



## *Open House Core & Elective Offerings*

	<b>Class</b>	<b>Room #</b>
<b>Core Classes</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	English 7 Standard & English 7 Honors	A-107
<input type="checkbox"/>	Life Science Standard & Life Science Honors	A-231
<input type="checkbox"/>	US History 7 Standard & US History 7 Honors	A-109
<input type="checkbox"/>	English 7 HN, Life Science HN US History 7 HN: AAP Local Level IV Program	A-219
<input type="checkbox"/>	Health & Physical Education	Gym 1