

Batavia Public Schools

CHALLENGE Program



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Contact Information

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Mission of Batavia Public Schools

Batavia Public Schools, as partner with family and community in the learning process, prepares each student with the knowledge and understanding necessary:

- to think and make responsible choices
- to help each child realize his or her potential
- to challenge the limits of achievement
- to interact with society in a constructive manner

Mission of the CHALLENGE Program

The CHALLENGE Program will enhance the district's mission by identifying and supporting gifted and academically talented students in their mathematical needs.

Definition

The CHALLENGE Program provides for the educational and social-emotional needs of gifted and academically talented students. Varied instructional strategies and flexible scheduling allow for the individual needs of these students to be met. Formal identification begins in the spring of a student's second grade year and instruction begins in third grade.

The CHALLENGE Math program is a replacement program for the classroom math instruction. Students receive math instruction solely from the CHALLENGE teacher. Classroom teachers and CHALLENGE teachers work collaboratively to develop instruction that best meets the needs of the student.

Goal

The CHALLENGE Program exists to:

- challenge, stimulate, and encourage students to reach their maximum level of learning
- provide a differentiated curriculum that reaches beyond what might be offered in the regular classroom
- understand and support the identified students' unique social and emotional needs

Resources for Parents

Parent Organization

CHALLENGE Advocacy Network & Development Organization (CANDO)

This group of parents meets regularly to support the efforts of gifted education in Batavia Public Schools. For information, send e-mail to:

CANDO_Batavia@hotmail.com

Periodicals

The Gifted Child Today.

GCT, Inc.

1-800-476-8711

Parenting for High Potential.

National Association for Gifted Children.

202-785-4268

Web sites of interest

www.nagc.org

National Association for Gifted Children.

www.iagcgifted.org

Illinois Association for Gifted Children.

counselingthegifted.com

Andrew S. Mahoney on gifted children and establishing identity.

Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT)

The NNAT measures nonverbal reasoning and problem solving using shapes and designed that are not language or culture specific.

In Batavia Public Schools, the NNAT is

- administered to second grade students who scored 125 or higher on the nonverbal portion of the CogAT
- used to identify potential areas of giftedness in reasoning and logic.

Test of Mathematical Abilities in Gifted Students (TOMAGS)

The TOMAGS test measures students' abilities to use mathematical reasoning and mathematical problem solving. The test reflects the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics curriculum and evaluation standards.

In Batavia Public Schools, the TOMAGS is

- administered to second grade students who scored 125 or higher in math on the CogAT Quantitative test
- Used to identify potential areas of giftedness in math.

Identification Process at the Elementary Level

Math

Students in second grade are screened for admission to the program based on standardized test performance. A quantitative or nonverbal ability score of 125 or above qualifies students for further testing.

Parents of qualifying students are notified, and their children are given the Naglieri Ability Test and/or the TOMAGS Math Test for Gifted Students. The results of these tests, teacher recommendation, and the student's MAP scores are placed in a matrix.

Students are then ranked based on their overall matrix score. Those whose scores qualify are placed in the Challenge program.

Re-evaluation for Program Placement

If a classroom teacher or parent would like a student reconsidered for placement in the CHALLENGE program, a written request, with teacher recommendation, must be submitted to the CHALLENGE teacher. If necessary, the CHALLENGE teacher will contact the parent to obtain permission for additional testing. All recent ability and achievement scores and the teacher recommendation will be placed on the matrix and then reviewed by the classroom teacher, principal, and CHALLENGE teacher.

Testing for re-evaluation is completed in the spring of the students' third, fourth or fifth grade year.

Families New to Batavia Public Schools

Students new to Batavia are eligible for the program if their standardized test scores meet the criteria for identification. When test scores are not available, individual testing may be administered to the child to determine admission. This procedure can occur as soon as a student is registered in the district. Parents will be contacted if tested is needed.

Description

Elementary Schools

Math—Grades 3–5

Students who qualify for the math program are pulled from their regular classrooms for math instruction for approximately 250 minutes per week. The CHALLENGE teacher delivers math instruction one year above their grade level using *Everyday Mathematics*. The teacher also uses supplemental materials from other grade level sources to enrich the depth of the concepts being taught.

Students meet with the CHALLENGE teacher at a time when their math time coincides with instruction of math given in their regular classrooms. They meet with the CHALLENGE teacher in another location in the building.

Tests Used by the CHALLENGE Program

Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)

The CogAt measures general and specific reasoning abilities in three batteries: Verbal, Quantitative, and Nonverbal. Tasks are developmentally appropriate within each level of the test. Tests are available for Kindergarten through Grade 12.

In Batavia Public Schools, the CogAt is

- administered to all second grade students to diagnose potential ability.
- used to identify students for further testing. Students who score 125 or higher in Nonverbal or 125 or higher in Quantitative are recommended for additional testing.

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)

MAP is a computerized adaptive test that is dynamically developed as the child completes it. The difficulty level of test questions is adjusted based on the student's previous answers.

In Batavia Public Schools, the MAP test is

- administered in grades 2 through 9.
- used to identify student achievement and skills learned.
- measures academic growth during the year.

Teacher Responsibilities

The CHALLENGE teacher is responsible for providing a rich curriculum and utilizing effective teaching strategies. Each teacher will

- spend the morning or afternoon in the assigned building working primarily with students
- plan differentiated activities for CHALLENGE students
- assist regular classroom teachers in extending the curriculum for high-ability students

Student Responsibilities

Students in the program will

- complete work neatly, on time, and with their best effort
- be motivated learners willing to share their interests and ideas with their intellectual peers

Parent Responsibilities

Parents of students in the program are asked to support their children as they learn to share their skills and discover their potential.

Rotolo Middle School

Math—Grades 6-8

Students placed in the math program in elementary school continue in an accelerated math program in middle school. In seventh grade, they will receive instruction in high school Algebra. In eighth grade, they receive instruction in high school Intermediate Algebra.

Interdisciplinary—Grades 6–8

Students' instruction is planned and delivered by the classroom teacher, the CHALLENGE teacher, or both. Students may leave the classroom to work with the CHALLENGE teacher when that situation is beneficial and appropriate. Students are flexibly placed with the CHALLENGE teacher for instruction based on a schedule set by the CHALLENGE and classroom teachers. They are not formally identified as CHALLENGE students at the middle school level. Instead teachers evaluate their learning needs based on test scores, and/or student interest and motivation to schedule learning extension times when possible.

Batavia High School

Students who successfully complete the CHALLENGE Math program in middle school, are ready to enroll in Geometry in high school. Students who have participated in the interdisciplinary program have some choice in their scheduling. Honors and Advanced Placement classes are available at all grade levels.

Student Evaluation

At the **elementary level**, report cards and progress reports are administered as follows:

- Math—CHALLENGE teacher

At the **middle school level**, grades are administered as follows:

- Math —classroom teachers
- Interdisciplinary Enrichment—classroom teacher with input from CHALLENGE teacher

Meetings for parents of CHALLENGE students are scheduled during parent teacher conference dates. Teachers are available by phone and email at all other times of the year.

Exit Procedures at the Elementary Level

Occasionally, teachers or parents question continued placement in the program. When this occurs, performance is reviewed using MAP, ISAT and tests within the *Everyday Mathematics* curriculum. Commitment is measured by assignment completion, attendance and class participation. Concerns in these areas are expressed in student progress reports. Careful consideration is made in each individual case, and all possibilities for the child's success are explored. If it is in the child's best interest to discontinue CHALLENGE placement, verbal and written communication with the parent occurs.

Communication

Communication between teachers and families of CHALLENGE students is very important. Teachers make every effort to call parents with concerns and welcome parent calls.

The CHALLENGE web site is accessible from the Batavia Public Schools site <www.bps101.net>. Information about activities and events is updated regularly.

Contact Information

CHALLENGE teachers may be contacted through e-mail or by leaving a message at their assigned building.

Ms. Elizabeth Selander Rotolo Middle School	937-8700
Mrs. Holly Coon J. B. Nelson School and Louise White School	937-8400 937-8500
Mr. Craig Recchia H. C. Storm School and Alice Gustafson School	937-8200 937-8000
Mrs. Tammi Lydick Grace McWayne School	937-8100
Mr. Brian Hodge Hoover-Wood School	937-8300