

Rev. 10.15.19

**STEP UP**  
*and*  
**ALPHA**

**Academic Gifted Programming**



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## **Philosophy:**

The South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools are committed to an educational program that recognizes the unique value, needs and talents of the individual student. STEP UP and ALPHA programming are integral parts of this commitment and are designed to meet the specific needs of intellectually and academically talented children. STEP UP and ALPHA programming provides a structure that not only strengthens the academic abilities of talented students but also promotes multiple opportunities for individual growth.

## **Goals:**

- To advocate for gifted students**- those identified for STEP UP and those included in ALPHA programming. (STEP UP students are identified in the area of Superior Cognitive Ability. ALPHA students are identified in the area of Specific Academic Ability in Reading or Math. A student may be identified in more than one area.)
- To employ state mandates** (H B. 282) in the screening, assessment and identification of students who are gifted.
- To create a gifted student academic plan** for STEP UP students that will address both academic and non-academic goals.
- To create a written education plan** for STEP UP and ALPHA that addresses their area(s) of strength.
- To obtain student, parent, teacher and administrator participation** in the implementation and evaluation of the goals of the student plan.
- To work collaboratively with classroom teachers** in order to develop and adapt curricula, materials, and teaching strategies that adjust the breadth, depth, and pace of learning for high-ability students.
- To coordinate programs** that encourage students to demonstrate their abilities and be recognized for their achievements.
- To provide programs** that encourage students to demonstrate their abilities and be recognized for their achievements.
  
- To provide programs** that address the social and emotional needs of gifted students.

## ***Elementary Programming (Grades K - 3)***

Gifted Intervention Specialists (GIS) will be available at each of the elementary buildings to work in collaboration with the classroom teachers. Working with the GIS, the classroom teachers may enrich or differentiate the curriculum for academically talented students. The GIS may also supply resources/materials for use by the teacher. Third grade STEP UP students will meet with the GIS once a week and a limited number of academic competitions may be available to primary students.

## ***Greenview Intermediate (Grade 4) Greenview Middle (Grade 5-6)***

Gifted Intervention Specialists (GIS) at Greenview work with classroom teachers to help students reach the goals on their gifted students academic plans. Gifted students at this level are cluster grouped, facilitating collaboration between the classroom teacher(s) and the GIS. Together these teachers provide enrichment and plan for differentiated instruction for gifted and high-end learners. The enrichment and differentiated instruction may take place within the classroom setting, during Enrichment Periods, or in a small group environment. Other opportunities for individual growth include: independent study, contests, competition, and once a week STEP UP meetings for students identified as cognitively gifted.

## ***Junior High Programming Grades 7-8***

At the middle school, gifted students are clustered on teams where a Gifted Intervention Specialist (GIS) collaborates with classroom teachers to provide differentiated curriculum and instruction for gifted and high end learners. Flexible grouping, accelerated classes, honors classes, differentiated assignments, higher level reading materials, pretesting and independent projects are strategies used to meet the goals of each individual's gifted student academic plan. Other opportunities for individual growth include competitions and contests. Students identified as cognitively gifted also have the opportunities to meet several times during the week with the GIS.

## **STEP UP and ALPHA Outreach**

Programs coordinated through STEP UP and ALPHA for students in the South Euclid Lyndhurst School District may include but are not limited to the following:

**Word Masters**  
**Continental Math League**  
**Junior Great Books**  
**Power of the Pen**  
**Equations**  
**Stock Market Simulations**  
**Midwest Academic Talent Search**  
**Math 24**  
**Future Problem Solving**  
**Robotics**  
**WISER**

### ***High School Programming*** ***Grades 9-12***

At the high school level, gifted students and academically talented learners have the opportunity to participate in accelerated courses, Honors, Advanced Placement classes, and College Credit Plus coursework. Honors classes offer advanced curricula that differentiate materials and teaching strategies. Advanced Placement classes offer college credit to those students who complete the course work and pass the Advanced Placement Exam. Additional opportunities that may be offered include career speakers, shadowing experiences, and internship programs with area businesses. College counseling, planning and referrals are also provided to STEP UP and ALPHA students at the high school.

### **Identification:**

Students can be referred for consideration in STEP UP or ALPHA programming by staff members, parents, peers, or themselves. The gifted coordinator screens all standardized tests given in the district for identification as a STEP UP student or ALPHA student. Specific evaluation tools utilized by the district and criteria needed for identification are available from the gifted coordinator or on the SEL website. (In accordance with H.B. 282)

### **Gifted Student Academic Plan:**

Students in K-12 who are identified for STEP UP or ALPHA programming have a Written Education Plan (WEP) that is revised annually. The purpose of the plan is to document the student's strength(s) and the strategies used to address those area(s).

#### **For More Information Contact:**

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