

# PACE - FAQ

## **1) What is PACE?**

PACE is the gifted/talented program for grades 3-5 and is designed for students who require highly differentiated services. This pull-out program utilizes advanced content, abstract reasoning, and multi-level problem-solving activities to improve higher-order thinking and concept development across a continuum of subjects and themes. For more detailed information, please go the **Canton Public Schools website-Departments-Curriculum, Instruction and Technology-PACE: Program for Academic and Creative Enrichment.**

## **2) Who is eligible to participate in PACE?**

All 3-4-5 grade Canton Students are eligible to apply for the program. Usually only 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, recent 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade transfers to Canton, and students who have never applied are screened. Once students are brought in, they have the option of staying in the program through grade 5. Previous applicants are not retested in successive years unless there are unusual circumstances.

## **3) Is this program appropriate for my child?**

Parents must weigh several factors in considering whether or nor to apply to the program. *PACE is neither an academic challenge nor a remedial program.* Rather, it is a highly specialized curricular/instructional model designed to address the unique learning needs of identified students. Students move through increasingly complex, sophisticated, and challenging activities, often covering a range of subjects and learning strategies in each class. Students must be able to work with a diverse group of learners in new and unusual situations, often involving unstructured problems and scenarios. Additionally, students must maintain a strong academic and behavioral record in their home classrooms in order to participate in the program. Students must be able to balance both classroom and program responsibilities

## **3) What is the screening process?**

In early September, Canton parents are sent a notice informing them of the upcoming screening sessions (usually held in late September/early October) and offering them the option of nominating their children. Upon receipt of their nominations, students undergo a two-part screening that seeks to identify traits, skills, knowledge, ability, and potential commensurate with, or indicative of gifted learners. Results are factored into a matrix that identifies a pool of students across the district.

## **4) Is there an appeals process?**

There is no formal appeals process, but we are always willing to speak with parents to review and reexamine the screening results. If warranted, other measures may be employed to retest students if there if there is sufficient reason to believe that the prior assessments did not identify a need for differentiation.