Differentiated Advanced Learning Initiative (DALI)

**What is DALI?**
The Differentiated Advanced Learning Initiative (DALI) is designed to advance the quality of learning for all students while meeting the unique academic needs of highly able and Gifted and Talented (GT) students.

**What does DALI mean in my child’s classroom?**
The Advanced Learning Office has been working closely with the Middle School Language Arts and Math Offices to develop open-ended learning tasks that are appropriate for our most advanced students. In math, this consists of pre-assessments and learning extensions that are aligned to class standards but allow students to work collaboratively on real-world math problems that may have multiple “right answers.” In Language Arts, DALI consists of rigorous alternate lessons and materials of instruction that provide more complex and challenging opportunities in reading and written assignments.

**How are current fifth-graders selected to participate in DALI?**
Students who were identified as GT in second grade will receive DALI instruction for math, language arts, or both – depending on their identification. Students who were identified as GT as fifth graders will also receive DALI instruction. In addition, teachers may offer DALI instruction to any Math 6/7, Math 7/8, or Language Arts 6, 7, or 8 student who demonstrates readiness for a more challenging learning opportunity.

**How and when will parents know if their child is recommended for DALI?**
The Advanced Learning Office sends letter to the parents of rising DALI sixth-graders each spring.

**Will DALI be a separate class?**
No. Students recommended for DALI should be with a larger group of students in Math 6/7, Math 7/8, and advanced Language Arts for grades 6, 7 and 8.

**When did DALI begin?**
DALI for Language Arts 6 and Math 6/7 was introduced in all AACPS middle schools at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year. It extended to grade seven at the beginning of the 2018-19 school year and is currently in all three middle school grades.

**For more information, contact**
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