

Pleasantdale Elementary School
8100 School Street
La Grange, IL 60525
708.246.4700 Fax: 708.246.4625



Pleasantdale Middle School
7450 S. Wolf Road
Burr Ridge, IL 60527
708.246.3210 Fax: 708.352.0092

Pleasantdale School District 107 | 7450 S. Wolf Road | Burr Ridge, IL 60527 | 708.784.2013 | Fax: 708.246.0161 | www.d107.org

During the 2015-2016 school year, the Talented and Gifted (TAG) program went through a program review. Updates and revisions were made to course offerings in 4th-8th grade math and ELA, universal screening measures, and placement criteria. This is the program we currently have in place in Pleasantdale District 107. In grades 4-8 there are accelerated courses in math, and there are extended and advanced courses in ELA. We continue to use the placement criteria and procedures that were put in place in the spring of 2016. However, a new accelerated placement act in Illinois, the adoption of new math and ELA curricula, and new assessments over the past two years have made it necessary to review our program again. Therefore, we placed the TAG program back on the curriculum review process to prepare for the adjustments that will need to be made to the program as a result of these changes.

Background Information: Illinois Accelerated Placement Act

In July of 2018, a new law went into effect that requires Illinois school districts to adopt an accelerated placement policy. The policy requires that districts provide acceleration options that include early entrance into kindergarten and first grade, single subject acceleration, and grade level acceleration. Furthermore, the policy outlines procedures for evaluation and notification of the accelerated placement program. The Board of Education reviewed the new policy in Instruction, 6:135, at the September 2018 board meeting. Procedures for this new policy will be written during the current program review.

TAG Program Review

Phase 1: Convene and Train a Subject Area Team

During the 2017-2018 school year, a TAG team was formed that included administrators, gifted teachers, and general education teachers from both buildings. The team attended three trainings through the Northwestern Center for Talent Development (CTD) on program models, acceleration, best practices and standards of gifted education, and differentiation. The team also commissioned a document review through Northwestern CTD to analyze our current TAG program. That document review has been completed, and the TAG team members have reviewed and prioritized the recommendations from Northwestern CTD.

Phase 2: Identify Needs and Timeline

Using the prioritized recommendations from the TAG team, we are creating a timeline for the updates and revisions that need to occur to put our TAG program into compliance with the new Accelerated Placement Act. In addition, some of the TAG team members attended a workshop in October of 2018 on implementing the Accelerated Placement Act through the Illinois Association of Gifted Children (IAGC).

During the 2018-2019 school year we will be working on:

- Updating our course descriptions to align to our new ELA and math curricula
- Writing procedures and creating supporting documents for early entry into kindergarten, first grade, single subject and whole grade acceleration
- Updating our placement procedures to account for multiple assessments that are valid and reliable
- Completing supporting documents for our TAG program

Once these revisions are completed, we will present the updates to the board of education.

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Presentation Takeaways:

- Our current TAG program and procedures are in place for the 2018-2019 school year.
- There is a new Illinois Accelerated Placement Act that requires our district to make updates and revisions to our TAG program.
- The TAG team will follow the curriculum review process and use the recommendations from Northwestern CTD to update and revise the TAG program.