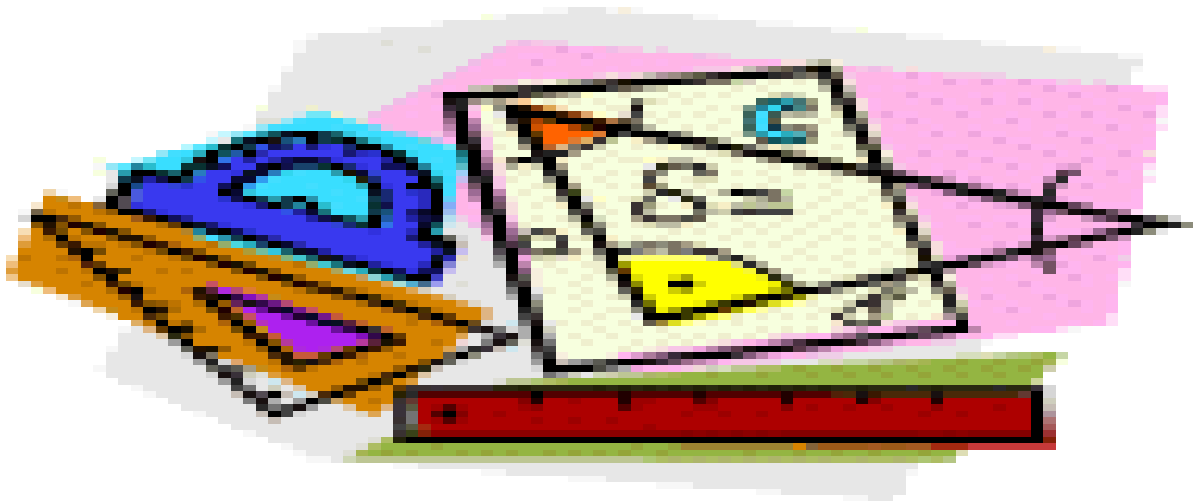


HAL

High Ability Learner Program



Homer Community School

District Philosophy:

The Homer Community School District is dedicated to meeting the needs of every student and offering educational opportunities to each child's ability. It will be the responsibility of the district to identify high ability learners and to incorporate enrichment, acceleration, guidance, and extended learning opportunities to meet individual student needs.

Definition of HAL:

High ability learners are those who have the potential or show the potential to exhibit high performance in the following:

- Intellectual, creative and/or artistic areas
- Unusual leadership capacity
- Excel in specific academic fields

Program Development:

The Homer Community School is continually looking to improve upon their already strong HAL Program. Community and parent input is always welcome and expected. Our HAL Program will also receive suggestions and guidance from the Department of Education – Curriculum and Instruction, which HAL is apart of.

Goals and Objectives of the HAL Program:

1. Provide educational experiences that challenge participants in curriculum areas.
2. Enhance career guidance and career education opportunities.
3. Require students to utilize their talents in creative and unique methods to complete assignments and projects.
4. Provide enrichment learning opportunities outside the normal school day and school calendar.

5. To challenge participants in the respective areas of their high ability learning area.
6. Provide educational opportunities beyond the means available through the present staffing capabilities.
7. Recognize and value parents as partners in the development of the HAL Program.
8. Provide opportunities for staff development that result in meeting the needs of HAL students.

Identification Process:

It is the intent of the Homer Community School to utilize multi criteria based identification process to determine HAL students. The following procedures can be utilized:

- Norm Reference Tests (ITBS/CATS)
- Kingore Observation Inventory (KOI)
- Teacher request
- Principal request
- Parent request
- Student request

HAL Identification Criteria:

In the spring, the HAL Coordinator will provide teachers and the principals with a list of those deemed as HAL based upon the norm reference testing results (ITBS). The coordinator will also develop a list of potential HAL candidates based upon testing scores, referrals and requests. 6-12 teachers will be asked to help select potential candidates for the HAL Program.

*K-6 students will be deemed HAL if they score a 90% or higher in any ITBS category. If a Kingore test has been given, students must exhibit 20 or more behaviors as listed on the KOI.

*7-12 students will be deemed HAL if they score a 90% or higher on the ITBS in the areas of Math Total, Science Total, Reading Total, Language Total or Composite Total. In addition, students must also maintain a grade point average of 90% in all subjects to participate in HAL activities.

Once the identification process is complete, a letter will be mailed home to identify the student as HAL and a description of the HAL Program. Transfer students will be given consideration for identification and placement in a timely manor.

HAL Renewal:

It must be acknowledged that students abilities and needs change over their 7-12 career, therefore, membership into HAL will be granted for a year at a time. All HAL students must re-qualify on a yearly basis.

If a participant has been in HAL for one year and their ITBS score(s) fall short of the required 90%, they may remain in HAL if they carry a minimum grade point average of 94% in all subject areas and obtain a teacher or principal recommendation.

Staff Notification:

K-6 elementary teachers will be notified of all elementary students deemed HAL based upon their ITBS scores.

All 7-12 teachers will be notified of all junior and senior high students deemed HAL by the above stated criteria.

HAL Activities:

The HAL Coordinator will be responsible for the yearly activities and development of the HAL Program. Ideas and suggestions are welcome and will always be considered. Local opportunities will try to be utilized as best as possible.

HAL students will be expected to not only receive and participate in specialized opportunities but also to help teach and demonstrate their abilities within their areas of strength to the other students within Homer School. Examples may include Quiz Bowl and other academic competitions and a Science Fair for grades K-6.

Curriculum:

Expanded curriculum offerings will be made available to HAL participants. HAL students in grades 10-12 can take classes for possible dual credit and distant-learning credit. The high school principal and guidance counselor will provide information upon request.

Staff Development:

Staff development can include, but is not limited to, the following possibilities:

- Attendance at high ability seminars and conferences, at both the state and national levels
- Attendance at ESU workshops dealing with various HAL related topics
- Local district in-service

Communication Plan:

The HAL district plan will be made available to patrons of the district via the school website. HAL information and guidelines can also be published in the school newspaper. Brochures can also be made and mailed with notification letters.