

FAQs

Academic Placement Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do I support my child at home?

Parents should offer support by checking homework planners, reviewing teacher memos, supporting short and long term assignments, and encouraging their child to do his/her best at school. Student independence is encouraged so that parents may offer suggestions/advice/direction, but ultimately each child is actively producing authentic independent work. If enrichment opportunities are offered, parents may encourage their child (ren) to accept additional learning opportunities as well.

2. How do I get my child into an accelerated class?

Students are recommended for accelerated placement based on academic performance and teacher recommendation. Peak to Peak's academic placement protocol includes using a *body of evidence* (formative/summative assessments, DRA2, TCAP, running records, unit tests, anecdotal notes, CogAT) to determine appropriate student placement. Placement is frequently reviewed and adjusted as student needs and performance develops.

3. How do I keep my child placed in the accelerated class every year?

Academic placement is flexible from year to year and within each academic year so that teachers are able to ensure appropriate placement for each student. As each student progresses through elementary school and demonstrates proficiency and/or mastery of standards and skills, there will be an *ebb and flow* within academic challenges and strengths. Peak to Peak's flexible grouping strategy allows students to fluidly move through these changes while simultaneously supporting appropriate placement and academic growth. Accelerated placement is based on academic performance and may be reviewed and adjusted as needed.

4. My older child went through Peak to Peak and was in accelerated classes. How can I ensure my younger child also gets into an accelerated class?

Each student's academic placement is based solely on an individual basis and performance. We do not use sibling (or peer) performance or achievement to academically place students.

5. My child has been in accelerated classes all along. Why is he/she moving out now?

Each child is academically placed in flexible groups to ensure an appropriate level of challenge AND success. Students, at times, may move *from* and/or *to* accelerated classes based on academic needs and performance.

6. Who do I talk to if I think my child is gifted?

You may talk with your child's teacher or contact the ALPS coordinator, Mrs. Roob (terese.roob@bvsd.org).

Updated 2013/14 school year