

## Acceleration Facts:

- Acceleration refers to the practice of presenting curriculum content earlier or at a faster pace.
- Enrichment refers to the presentation of curriculum content with more depth, breadth, complexity, or abstractness than the general curriculum.
- There are many ways to accelerate the curriculum. These options offer the flexibility needed to help meet the individual needs of students:
  - Acceleration in one or more subject areas
  - Grade skipping
  - Advanced placement programs
  - College courses in high school
  - Early graduation from high school
  - Early entrance into college.
 (Brody and Benbow, 1987)
- The choice of how to accelerate the curriculum for a particular student should be based on the individual needs of each student.
- To be successful, acceleration must be understood as a program decision, not a placement decision. The curriculum must continue to be challenging for the accelerated student. In case studies of successfully accelerated students, subject matter was carefully planned and monitored, and it addressed the students' social and emotional maturity as well as academic achievement. (Gross, 1992)
- Outside Competition Opportunities:
  - Regional, State, International Science Fair, Sumter Math Field Day, LSSC Math Olympics, The National Geographic History Bee, Scripps National Spelling Bee, VFW Patriot's Pen Essay, Temple Shalom Holocaust Essay, The Villages Fine Arts Photography Contest, State Music Band & Choral Competitions; Lyons Club Peace Poster, Optimist Essay
- Gifted Participations:
  - FAME – Jim Harbin Student Media Festival Video Contest
  - Florida Council on Economic Education Stock Market Challenge
  - Florida School Board Association PSA contest
  - Just Read, Florida – Celebrate Literacy Week PSA contest

## Acceleration Benefits:

Research shows the following benefits of acceleration:

- When gifted students were accelerated, there was an increase in their academic achievement. (Kulik and Kulik, 1984B; Vialle, 2001)
- Accelerated students tend to “outperform students of the same age and ability who are not accelerated.”(Kulik and Kulik, 1984B; p.87)
- Accelerated students achieved “as well as equally gifted older students in the higher grades.” (Kulik and Kulik, 1984B; p.87)
- Accelerated gifted students reported satisfaction emotionally and academically when the curriculum was challenging, provided them with options, and allowed for their input in the design and implementation. (Vialle, 2001)

References:

- Brody, L.E., & Benbow, C.P. (1987). Accelerated Strategies: How effective are they for the gifted? *Gifted Child Quarterly*, 31, 105-109.
- Gross, M.U.M. (1992). The use of radical acceleration in cases of extreme precocity. *Gifted Child Quarterly*, 36(2), 91-99.
- Kulik and Kulik, C.C. (1984B). Synthesis of research on effects of accelerated instruction. *Educational Leadership*, 42, 84-89.



# The Villages® Charter School

## Accelerated Program

# ACCEL

*Offering Academically Challenging  
Curriculum Opportunities to Enhance and  
Differentiate Learning*



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# Accelerated Program



The Villages Charter School is a Florida public charter school that follows state adopted curriculum. Our K-12 accelerated program, ACCEL, provides academically challenging options to enhance student learning.

Evidence shows that a child will benefit from the academically challenging instruction provided in the ACCEL program if the following criteria are met:

- ◆ Exceptionally high achievement on standardized tests and classroom performance
- ◆ A team recommendation of principal, school counselor and teachers



## K-12 ACCEL Sequence

### Elementary

**KG-5th Grade:** Enrichment & Differentiated Instruction are used to meet the child's learning needs. ACCEL will include grade level curriculum that is enriched through multiple programs and activities utilized in the classroom and in the SuccessMaker computer labs.

### Middle School

**Grades 6-8:** ACCEL core advanced academic classes: Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies will provide students with challenging learning activities that prepare them for high school ACCEL course work.

**Grades 7-8:** Based on placement screenings students are enrolled in high school honors courses: Algebra I Honors & Geometry Honors, Physical Science Honors and Spanish I.

### High School

**Grades 9-12:** Students enroll in a combination of Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment and Honors core courses. This course enrollment combination provides for the best match for students.

## Gifted Program



The K-12 gifted program placement criteria is based on state statute 6A-6.03019 requirements. The student must demonstrate a majority of the characteristics of gifted students according to a standard scale or checklist. The student must show superior intellectual development as measured by an intelligence quotient (IQ) of two (2) standard deviations or more above the mean on an approved individually administered standardized test of intelligence. Placement screenings through Sumter County are managed by each school's guidance counselors.

## Gifted Program Sequence

### Elementary

Grades K-5: Students meet with the gifted teacher 4 hours per week as a pull-out group. The gifted classroom provides enrichment instruction through project-based activities as well as direct instruction.

### Middle School

Grades 6-8: Students will receive their gifted services through their Language Arts class for one period daily and will receive daily differentiated instruction taught by a certified teacher of the gifted. This will allow for students to work toward their individual EP goals. Students will also be participating in quarterly seminars on a variety of topics designed to address pertinent issues that gifted students face during their middle school years.

### High School

Consultations with the gifted teacher are provided 2 times per quarter. Symposiums with students on various topics are held once a quarter. The access to the combination of Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment, and Honors core courses provide rigorous learning opportunities in addition to the gifted program services.