

Emerging Scholars

The Emerging Scholars Program is designed to increase the proportion of historically underrepresented students in gifted programs. School administrators, teachers, and Visions teachers work together to find and nurture gifted potential in young learners. The goals of the Emerging Scholars Program are as follows:

- Nurturing high academic potential at an early age so that targeted students will be prepared to engage in challenging subject matter and rigorous courses in upper elementary, middle, and high school. The goal is for the Emerging Scholars to be enrolled in honors classes, Advanced Placement classes, Dual Enrollment classes and Governor's School
- Nurturing high academic potential for students who without the Emerging Scholars opportunity are less likely to pursue advanced levels of learning on their own
- Cluster grouping Emerging Scholars so that cohorts can be developed. One study on African American adolescents showed that more effort to achieve came forth from students who had friends with high academic value (Patchen, 1982).

Criteria used for the identification of Emerging Scholars includes (1) portfolios of products, (2) performance assessments, (3) observations/conversations, (4) standard achievement tests, and (4) standard non-verbal ability tests. For the year 2007-2008, it is proposed that cluster grouping of Emerging Scholars take place at James River Elementary School in grades 1 through 3 and at the three middle schools, grades 6 and 7.

Emerging Scholars will be nurtured, guided, and supported through ongoing staff development pertaining to culturally responsive teaching, differentiated curriculum that is accelerated and challenging, scaffolding lessons as needed, in-school and after-school activities, and parent/guardian involvement and support.