



High Five: August 2025

Supporting HA students through our Five Goals

Welcome to the New School Year

I hope that you are settling into routines and procedures and enjoying the hustle and bustle of the new school year! You will receive a newsletter from me each month that has our high ability program policies, resources, and professional development. The newsletters will follow a similar format with PD opportunities under Important Dates near the end of the newsletter. These are opportunities from the district and state to learn about how to best serve our identified high ability students.

*New this year: we have identified HA building representatives that will be attending district meetings as they are able to be the lead learner for your building. There is a list in our HA Drive of HA teachers by building for your reference.

The following newsletter starts with the basics! The newsletters are on our [HA Drive for Teachers](#) and on our website: <https://www.perryschools.org/idea/>.

New HA Canvas Course!

Over the summer I had a professional development opportunity available and made this Canvas Course to complete to get to know our program. If you choose to complete this course, you can get paid for 7 hours of out of school time to complete it. If you choose to enroll and complete it, just email me when you are complete and I will make sure that you get paid. It has all of the basics that you need to know and learn about our program and HA students in general. Click here to access the course:

<https://perryschools.instructure.com/enroll/H9NL79>



Meet the High Five Team

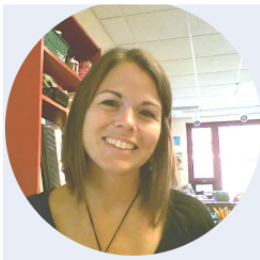
Please meet the individuals behind our newsletters and professional development. We have been a team for many years and have a variety of experiences and interests. We are here to support you!



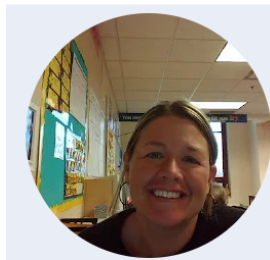
Nina Bowman, 8th Grade Language Arts Teacher at PMMS



Kim Jovic, Director of Testing and High Ability



Amy Rollings, 3rd Grade Teacher at RP



Melissa Gannon, 2nd Grade Teacher at MB

What does enrichment look like within CKLA?

Here is a document that Melissa Browning made for us. Our HA team is going to discuss this and we plan to set up a PD time with Melissa to dive into it further.

- In-the-moment stretching questions or activities sprinkled throughout the lessons
- Typically are just oral response questions, but may include extended research ideas / opportunities

Enrichment / Research Opportunities

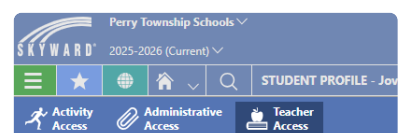
- In some units' Teacher Guides, there will be suggestions for students to complete further research on a topic
 - Ex: Grade 4, Unit 2, Part 1
 - Ex: Grade 2, Knowledge 7, Westward Expansion
- These suggestions may overlap with what is included in the Pausing Point activities and/or the Challenge sidebars
- In this case, it would be helpful for students to have access to

Copy of CKLA / High Ability Resources

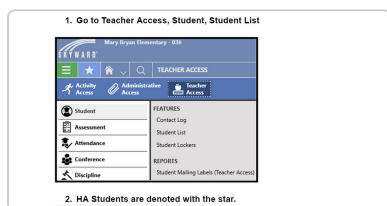
CKLA / High Ability Resources Challenge Sidebars
In-the-moment stretching questions or activities sprinkled throughout the lessons
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Enrichment / Research Opportunities
In some units' Teacher Guides,...

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How do I see my HA Students in Skyward?



I have been learning how to use Skyward alongside you! The first step in working with high ability students is to know which students are identified in your classroom and in which areas. Here is a document with instructions typed. Thank you to Melissa Gannon for walking through this with me! Your view is different from mine! I am able to filter HA students and put a tile on my Home Dashboard. I am going to work with technology to see if you can get this view too. I will keep you posted. Your building Skyward point of contact can also pull a list for you. Please reach out with any questions.



How to View your HA Students in Skyward

Go to Teacher Access, Student, Student List HA Students are denoted with the star. When you click on the star, it tells you the year they were initially identified and the area. 1=General Intellectual (Language Arts and Math) 2=Math only 3=Language Arts only I have a different view ...

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Where do I start to get trained on how to serve students identified HA?

IMPORTANT DATES 🗓️

[Here is a link to all PD Opportunities on one document!](#)

2-Day Teacher Bootcamp with Kristie Speirs Neumeister from Ball State: In Person OR Virtual. In person dates are September 22nd & September 29th at Conner Prairie. Check out the Flyer below for more information.

Indiana Association for the Gifted: December 15th and 16th at the JW Marriott

Broad Based Planning Dates all at PTEC210:

9/17/25210, 4-5 p.m. Goals: Action Steps

11/19/25210, 4-5 p.m. Prep to send Parent Input survey

2/18/26210, 4-5 p.m. Update on Goals, prep next year goals

4/22/26210, 4-5:30 p.m. HA Identification Meeting

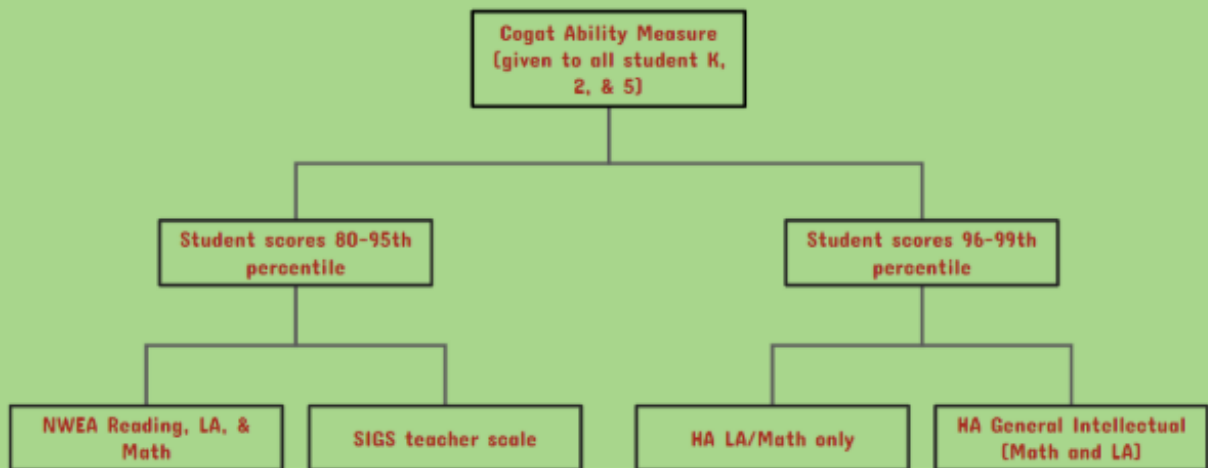
2-Day Teacher Bootcamp Flyer

Email Kim if interested in any of these NAGC webinars

HA Screening-Overview and Timeline

We start our screening for high ability identification with the CogAT for 2nd and 5th graders in September (9/8-9/19). We screen kindergarten students in December (12/1-12/12). We screen all students with this test, and get three composite scores for the batteries: Verbal, Quantitative, and Nonverbal. We use information from this test to determine a group of students to test further with the achievement test, the NWEA. The students in this group scored an 80th-95th percentile on one of the Composite scores of Verbal, Quantitative, or Quantitative Nonverbal. If students score on the bubble of identification criteria, a 94th or 95th percentile on one of the composites, we will send you a teacher rating scale to gain more information on these students. Students can be identified for services in Language Arts only, Math only, or Language Arts and Math (General Intellectual). Those designations can be found in Skyward under Special Programs, High Ability.

High Ability Screening



This will go out in Elementary newsletters for the first part of the screening

Dear Families of 2nd and 5th Grade Students,

In September, your student will take the *Cognitive Abilities Test*[™] (*CogAT*®). The purpose of this letter is to inform you about the test so that—with your support and encouragement—your student will do his or her best on the test.

About *CogAT*

CogAT measures students' **learned reasoning abilities** in the three areas most closely related to success in school:

- The **Verbal Battery** measures students' abilities to reason with words and concepts. These reasoning abilities play an important role in reading comprehension, critical thinking, writing, and virtually all verbal learning tasks.
- The **Quantitative Battery** measures students' abilities to reason with quantitative symbols and concepts. These reasoning skills are significantly related to problem solving in mathematics and other disciplines.
- The **Nonverbal Battery** measures students' abilities to reason with geometric shapes and figures. To perform successfully, students must accurately implement strategies for solving novel problems.

The three separate batteries provide a broad perspective on each student's learned reasoning abilities, identifying cognitive strengths and weaknesses. The students take the test on the computer.

This test is given as part of our high ability screening. The different parts of the screening take place throughout the school year. Identification for the program occurs in April, and identification emails will go out through ParentSquare in May. Test scores from the *CogAT* will be available in Skyward under Test Results after testing. Our Skyward updated to a new version, so it may take longer than usual to upload. Please send any questions to Kim Jovic at kjovic@perryschools.org.



Kim Jovic

Kim is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters