

High Five: November 2025

Supporting HA Students Through our Five Goals

Looking Ahead to the New Year

I want to wish you all a beautiful and magical holiday season. I know the season brings with it a mixture of emotions, but I hope that you make time to reflect and focus on what is meaningful to you and that you get time for yourself! The Spring semester is fast and furious. I know that state testing requirements make us all feel dysregulated (☹️), but we also have some fun activities to look forward to. Please review this newsletter to see how you can reserve the Starlab, see how others are making HA a priority, and upcoming workshops. Happy Holidays!

Starlab Reservation System

We had the Starlab training this December and had a group of teachers from many schools attend. The training was long and we were able to experience what students feel like in class all day! The training covered ALOT of information. We need to go back and review it in chunks, but we are ready to get our reservation process going and start using it!



I made a Google Calendar just for the Starlab reservations. I will share the calendar with any teacher who attended the training and the HA representative in the building. For the beginning phases until we feel comfortable with the training, I will be at each building to help the teacher/rep until each building has a person that is comfortable with set up/tear down, curriculum, and safety. The Starry Lab and Geology app is only on the laptop included with Starlab. Each building who reserves Starlab should reserve it for at least one day prior to when they will use it. That will give them time to look over the program and get prepared for presenting. Grounds will deliver the equipment to each building in their gym or designated area (approved by Kim Jovic) that you put on the calendar invite (add it to the location).

Broad Based Planning Meeting

Our second Broad Based Planning Meeting was held in November and we focused on another one of our HA program goals based on program evaluation and parent involvement. Our Broad Based Planning Committee is the group that helps guide decision making with our high ability program. There are parents, teachers, students, administrators, and counselors on the committee. Below are the slides that we covered. We shared information and statistics on our professional development plan such as how many teachers have gifted and talented licensure in the district and how many staff attended workshops. Please consider joining us at our next meeting to plan our HA Grant for 26-27!



BBPC 11/18/25

25-26 Broad Based Planning Committee Meeting #2 11/18/25 @ PTEC 210

[docs.google.com](#)

Prioritizing our HA students

One of our high ability representatives reached out to teachers of high ability students at her building to form a high ability committee that meets once monthly on Friday for 20-30 minutes. The first two meetings focused on meeting norms, forming a vision for HA at their building, and defining rigor for HA students. It has been great to meet with others that want to do more for their students and keep pushing them academically while also supporting their social and emotional skills.

2nd Grade CKLA HA Activity

Leslie Clark from RP shared how she turned the Grade 2, Lesson 4 CKLA unit into interdisciplinary activity for her high ability students. Here is her thinking and organization:

During this lesson, students worked with the support activity in the Teacher Guide (page 61), where they recorded information about the USS *Constitution*. The class was especially engaged with this topic, so for our cumulation day we expanded it into a small PBL experience.

Students conducted additional research on Epic, sketched their own ship designs, and then built and tested their models. Our goal was to create a strong integration of the Engineering Design Process, and the students were excited about this project.

The project aligned closely with all HA expectations:

Engineering Design Process Alignment

- **Ask:** What made the *Constitution* successful?

- **Imagine:** How can we model that using recycled materials?
- **Plan:** Draw a prototype
- **Create:** Build a ship
- **Test:** Determine if it floats/sails
- **Improve:** Revise and refine designs

High-Ability Fit

- Advanced reasoning
- Application of science concepts
- Persistence, problem-solving, and creativity



Professional Development

IMPORTANT DATES 📅

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

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

Broad Based Planning Dates all at PTEC210:

11/19/25 PTEC 210, 4-5 p.m. Prep to send Parent Input survey

2/18/26 PTEC 210, 4-5 p.m. Update on Goals, prep next year goals

NEW! HA Program Design and ID Workshop: February 24, 2026 at Launch Fishers

HA Identification Meeting: 4/22/26 PTEC 210, 4-5:30 p.m.

HA Canvas Course

If you choose to complete this course, you can get paid for 10 hours (updated!) 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>



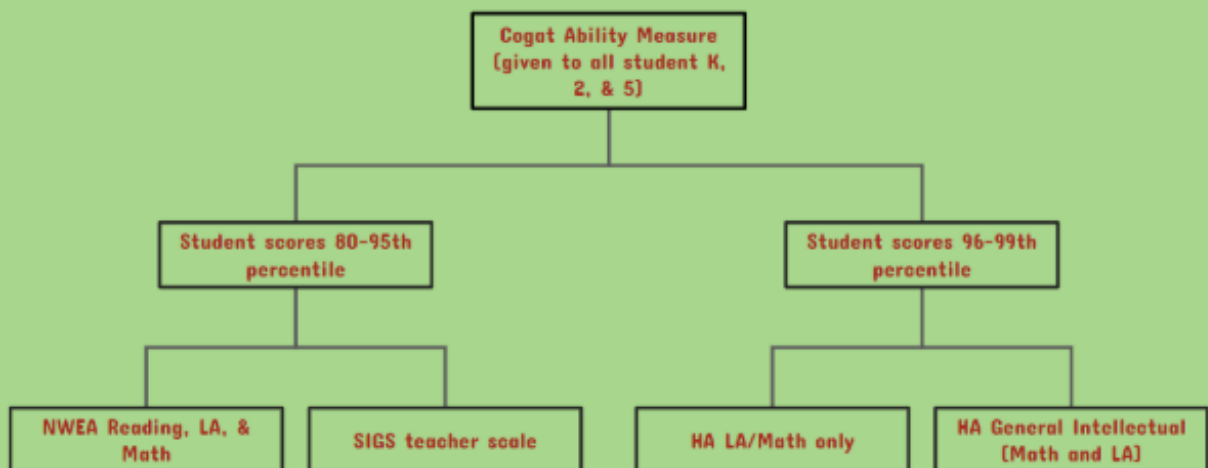
High Ability Licensure Information-Tuition Reimbursement

HA Screening-Overview and Timeline

We are wrapping up the CogAT for kindergarteners. I will send the list of students to each building that scored an 80th-95th percentile on one of the Composite scores of Verbal, Quantitative, or Quantitative Nonverbal for NWEA after Winter Break. That will be given 3/2-3/13/26.

Our 2nd graders took the NWEA in November. I will be following up by sending teacher scales to teachers of students who are on the bubble of qualifying after winter break. This scale is called the SIGS-2 and you will get an email in your inbox if you have a student who meets this criteria.

High Ability Screening



Research Units in CKLA

You should have access to Research Units in CKLA. We met with Melissa Browning and thought that these would be great options for a differentiated project for HA students during WIN time. Take a look at your grade level project. How could this be implemented in your classroom or school? Let your HA representative know if you are interested in piloting the unit for us to see if it is something that we should implement district wide. I have ordered each grade level set and have them here at PTEC.



Grade K: Art and the World Around Us



Grade 1: Tales from the Edges of the World



Grade 2: Up, Up, and Away: The Age of Aviation



Grade 3: All That Jazz



Grade 4: Energy: Past, Present, and Future



Grade 5: Beyond Juneteenth: 1865 to Present



Kim Jovic

Kim is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters