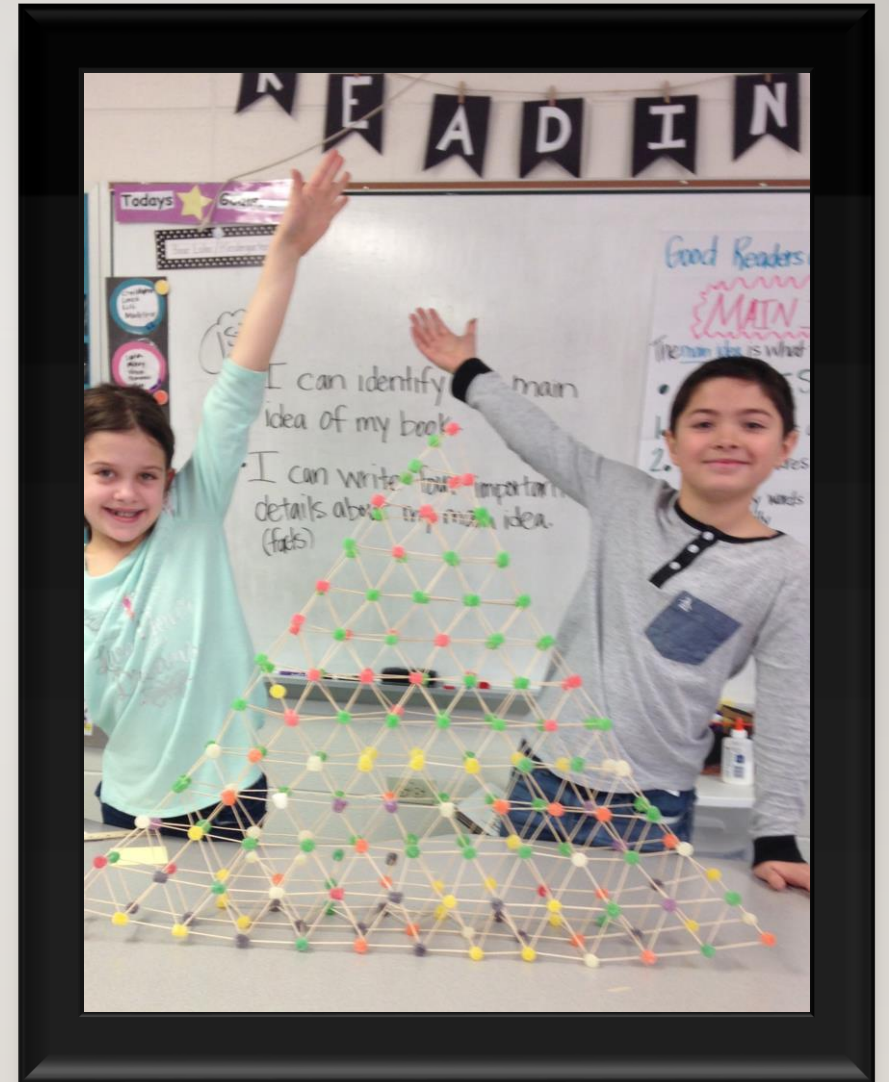


BEATTIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S

BEACON PROGRAM

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF HIGH- ABILITY LEARNERS

" A MIND ONCE STRETCHED BY A NEW IDEA NEVER REGAINS
ITS ORIGINAL DIMENSIONS"



“Happiness lies in the joy of achievement and the thrill of challenges.”


IT IS THE GOAL OF BEATTIE ELEMENTARY STAFF TO DEVELOP LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL STUDENTS THAT ARE **RIGOROUS, ENGAGING, AND INFUSED WITH CREATIVITY**.

“**RIGOR** IS NOT CHARACTERIZED BY MORE WORK BUT BY MORE MEANINGFUL WORK THAT IS INTELLECTUALLY CHALLENGING AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING AND IS RELATIVE TO THE AGE OF THE CHILD.”— DR. BERTIE KINGORE

“**CREATIVITY** IS THE EMERGENCE OF A NOVEL, RELATIONAL PRODUCT GROWING OUT OF THE UNIQUENESS OF THE INDIVIDUAL.”— CARL RODGERS

ENGAGEMENT RESULTS WHEN STUDENTS ARE PRESENTED INTERACTIVE, AUTHENTIC LEARNING EXPERIENCES THAT HELP THEM RESET THEIR LEARNING ATTITUDES AND LEAD THEM TO ACCEPT MORE RIGOROUS CHALLENGES.

- **At Beattie Elementary School**, we believe that the unique needs of all students should be strategically addressed.
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- **The Beacon Program** is designed to provide rigorous and engaging academic challenge for students who are identified as *Gifted and Talented* as well as for Talent Pool students who rank in the top 15-20% of their grade level. Mrs. Heckart works closely with the classroom teachers to insure that Beacon work supports and enriches the regular classroom curriculum.
 - **Creativity** is also embraced in Beacon. At each grade level, the learning objectives are always multi-faceted as academic work is viewed through a creative lens.
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WHAT MAKES BEACON UNIQUE?

- Unlike most Gifted and Talented Programs, qualifying primary students (1-2) as well as intermediate students (3-5) participate in Beacon. At Beattie Elementary it is felt that age should not be a discriminating factor when offering rigorous, creativity-infused curriculum to students who would benefit from additional challenge. Creativity is embraced and students are given an opportunity to foster it once a week during Creativity time in Beacon! The Beacon schedule follows the grade-level schedule making revolving in and out of the Beacon classroom smooth and seamless.

Voice and Choice/ Student Interest

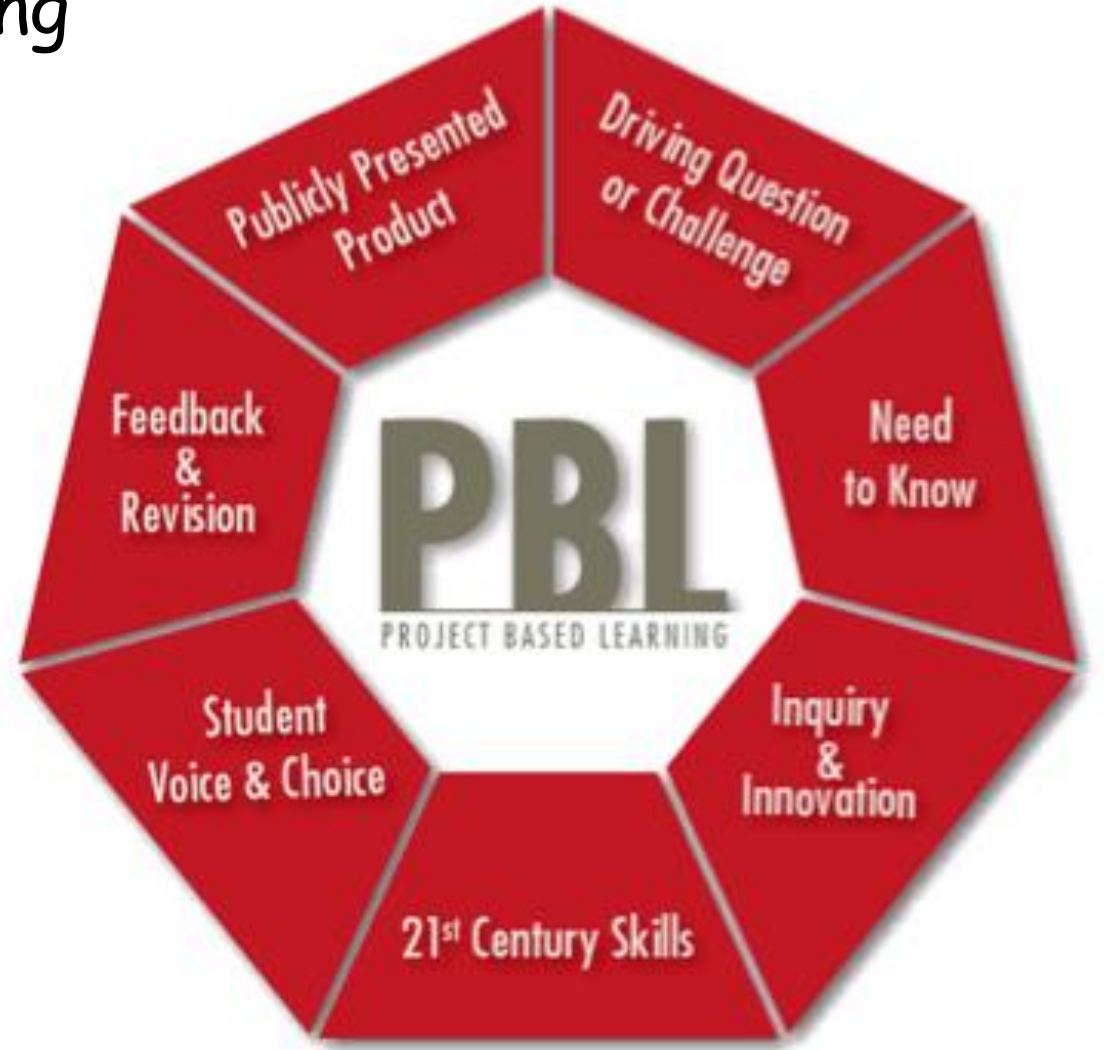
- Hands on Learning Approach! We emphasize the importance of the learner being actively involved in the learning process by utilizing a variety of materials and providing many choices for their own learning.

"Happiness lies in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort."—Franklin D. Roosevelt



Project Based Learning

- Students work collaboratively in a community of inquiry to create projects that make an impact. Students think both locally and globally while designing their projects around essential questions that are relevant and challenging. They are learning 21st century skills as they grapple with new ideas, deep analysis and research. Our students leave school with pride knowing that each day they are contributing members of society.



BEACON IS

Beattie's unique program that provides

Engaging, complex, and in-depth learning experiences for high-ability learners

At all grade levels.

Creativity is key in all we do.

Only at Beattie!

Novel, innovative, invigorating, and enriching!!

The mind is everything. What you think you become."--Buddha



ADVANCED LEARNING PLAN GOALS (ALPS) ARE SUPPORTED!

- Students who are identified as Gifted and Talented in any area are given specific time each week in Beacon to work on their individual learning goals as outlined in their Advanced Learning Plan (ALP). In addition, they are supported, guided, and monitored by the Beacon teacher throughout the process.
- Students are also involved in the goal setting process as they choose their individual affective goal and work with our counselor, Ms. Coleman, once a week in a small group setting which will offer them growth mindset strategies targeted towards their specific goal.

STUDENT AND COMMUNITY LED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



ACADEMIC CURRICULUM CREATED SPECIFICALLY FOR HIGH-ABILITY LEARNERS IS USED AT ALL GRADE LEVELS IN BEACON

- Literacy—
- We use The College of William and Mary's Language Arts Units and Junior Great Books at each grade level. These units were developed at the College's Center for Gifted Education in Williamsburg, VA to challenge students with complex literary texts. Students are encouraged to think through complex concepts, issues, and themes which strengthens competence in reading, writing and critical thinking.
- Mrs. Heckart meets once a month with grade level teachers to discuss the Power Standard they are targeting for the month. Instruction is aligned to the Common Core and modified to meet the needs of the high ability learners.

Growth Mindset is Instilled into Students

DEVELOPING A **GROWTH MINDSET**



INSTEAD OF.....	TRY THINKING....
I'm not good at this	What am I missing?
I give up	I'll use a different strategy
It's good enough	Is this really my best work?
I can't make this any better	I can always improve
This is too hard	This may take some time
I made a mistake	Mistakes help me to learn
I just can't do this	I am going to train my brain
I'll never be that smart	I will learn how to do this
Plan A didn't work	There's always Plan B
My friend can do it	I will learn from them

CREATIVITY IS EMBRACED!!

- Beacon is a beautiful blend of high-level academics and creativity. In almost everything that is done in Beacon, creative projects are linked to the learning process. In addition, Beacon supports the concepts of Functional Creativity, another cornerstone of Beattie Elementary that is used in all classrooms. Students follow the process of Design Thinking, Problem Solving, and Experiencing as they find creative solutions to a variety of situations and problems.
- Creativity class is student driven and often student led!
- Beacon has access to a 3d printer which is utilized in 4th and 5th grades! Students are invited to be engineers and designers and 3d print a prototype solutions to everyday problems. We use <https://www.teachengineering.org/> curriculum to inspire lessons.
- “The world we have created is a product of our thinking; it cannot be changed without changing our thinking.”—Albert Einstein

RIGOR+CREATIVITY=ENGAGEMENT!!!



PROJECT MENUS

- Math, Literacy, Science and Social Studies Menus— Students select projects from a list of choices that relate to a certain concept or topic. Some project choices include making board and class games, creating models and dioramas, developing collages, posters, and mobiles, writing and performing plays and/or songs, researching real-life applications, becoming Teacher for the Day, creating Power Point presentations, and making crossword puzzles, word searches, and card games to name a few.

PROJECTS WITH PIZAZZ!!

- Topics can include anything from creating a map of a thematic, fictional island to developing a survival plan for an uncharted planet to researching information about sea life and mythical legends to place in Davey Jones's Locker. Students may create artifacts for a jackdaw on an ancient civilization, develop to-scale models of various objects or develop a portfolio of tessellations exemplifying geometric shapes. Perhaps they will write a play and perform it with their friends or invent a journal written from the perspective of a rock as it travels through the rock cycle or compile a book of original poetry. They may write and illustrate their own thematic alphabet books based on a topic of their choice or create a fractured Fairy Tale and publish them on Book Creator. They share these books with their peers during a Publishing Event!
- The possibilities are endless and always engaging!

RESEARCH WITH A TWIST

- Students frequently engage in research projects of their choice that involve a creative product.
- For instance, fifth grade students participate in The Night of the Notables in which each selects an eminent person to research in-depth. They then write a bio-riddle poem about this person and develop a learning station that highlights their person's life and accomplishments. Students have the choice as to how they want to present their learning. Parents and peers are invited to The Night of the Notables event at which time poems and learning stations are shared.
- Students in 4th grade are challenged to research something they are curious about and are given the choice on how they want to present their findings!
- "Creativity involves breaking out of established patterns in order to look at things in a different way."—Edward de Bono

WHAT ARE EXAMPLES OF CREATIVITY INFUSED ACADEMIC PROJECTS?

