

## **William and Mary Program Overview**

The William and Mary Language Arts Program for High Ability Learners was developed by the Center for Gifted Education at the College of William and Mary specifically to meet the needs of high ability students. The program includes a series of curriculum units designed to challenge students to read advanced texts and perform a variety of tasks. The literature and tasks increase in complexity as students move from one grade to the next. Through consistent use of the curriculum's specific teaching models students build competence in reading, writing and thinking.

In class the students read and discuss short pieces of literature – poems, short stories, speeches, and essays. Students respond to the literature and think critically about it by analyzing ideas, vocabulary, and structure.

Instruction focuses on active learning, problem solving, and critical thinking. In addition to receiving direct instruction, students are encouraged to work individually and in small groups. The use of rubrics to evaluate work is a strong component.

All students in MCPS participate in full or partial implementation of the William and Mary Curriculum through consistent application of the teaching models along with selected readings and lessons from the units.

### **Program Goals**

Each student will develop:

- Literary analysis and interpretation skills
- Persuasive writing skills
- Linguistic competency
- Listening and oral communication skills
- Reasoning skills
- Understanding of the concept of change