

Riverview PAT Program

F A Q's - Frequently Asked Questions

How are students identified and/or qualified for the PAT Program?

Parents, teachers, and community members refer students. The following criteria are used to determine whether or not a student qualifies for PAT placement:

- Scores from an intelligence or abilities test
- Scores from the most recent standardized achievement test
- Information from a Parent Questionnaire
- Information from a Teacher Questionnaire
- Team recommendation from PAT selection committee

The assessment tools help to determine whether or not the grade level curriculum can adequately challenge the students. Students whose scores are in the exceptional range in either Language Arts or Math are considered for placement in PAT program options designed to provide a more rigorous level of challenge in the student's specific area of expertise.

What are the different options for students who qualify for the PAT Program?

The Elementary Program for the Academically Talented begins at second grade. This program uses an option based service model. Once accepted into the program children continue to be enrolled until the end of fifth grade and do not need to re-test. The parent of a qualified child may yearly apply for the option that best meets his/her child's needs. The following options are included within this model.

Option 1 - Full Day Class: PAT students attend a full day, every day class. This class is currently based at Carnation Elementary. The full day class provides curriculum acceleration, opportunities to study concepts in greater depth and cognitive interaction for second through fifth grade PAT students. Critical thinking skills, the arts and technology are infused across the curriculum. Students are part of the Carnation Elementary community; they are included in assemblies, recesses, school projects, services by various specialists and grade level fieldtrips. Students are

selected for this class based on a PAT matrix ranking, with the highest students being selected. A second-third class and a fourth-fifth class are provided. Once selected for this class, students continue from year to year, unless parents and/or staff determine the class is no longer appropriate for the child. This is an accelerated and challenging class with a fun child-centered focus.

Transportation for Option 1: Transportation to the Full Day Class is ultimately the parent's responsibility as with any child who applies for a within district waiver. However, students may elect to ride one of the shuttle buses provided by the district. Many of the students from Cherry Valley and Stillwater do take this shuttle, however, some parents elect to transport their children independently or by car-pooling with other parents.

Option 2 - Cluster Classes: Within the Cluster Class option 2 or more PAT students are clustered within a classroom per grade level at each school site. Some years there are not enough children at a particular grade level within a school to form a cluster. A committee has developed a PAT framework for cluster classes. This framework is used to help the classroom teacher determine and provide daily curriculum and instruction. The clustering of PAT students provides them with some cognitive peer interaction and allows the teacher to group them as appropriate. PAT Cluster Teachers receive a grant that they may use for training, materials, substitutes to allow them to spend more time with PAT students, and/or curriculum planning for their PAT students. Parents tend to choose this model so that their children can stay at their home school. This is a teacher driven program and each individual teacher determines the program within his/her class in accordance with the PAT framework. This can vary from year to year.

Option 3 - Regular Classes: Parents may enroll their PAT eligible child in a regular classroom at their home school following the normal school procedures. The regular classroom teacher provides the program of instruction within his/her normal classroom model and is responsible for meeting the needs of the children within the class. Although no direct PAT support is provided, PAT materials may be checked out of the school or district library.

If my child qualifies for PAT in one subject but not the other (i.e. reading vs. math), will their curriculum be accelerated in both subjects?

Typically, students participate in an accelerated curriculum in all subjects. In the 2nd/3rd PAT Multiage Class students typically work on 3rd & 4th grade curriculum. In the 4/5th Multiage PAT Class students may work on 5th & 6th grade work (depending on their ability levels). It is sometimes challenging at first for new students to transition from a regular classroom to a PAT Accelerated Classroom. It is important for the parent to communicate with the PAT teacher to monitor their progress throughout the year.

What is the bus schedule like for PAT students coming from another school to the full day program?

The Riverview School District Transportation Department provides two different morning and afternoon bus routes for all Riverview students and schools. Please check with the transportation department (425) 844-4534 and/or RSD website for transportation schedules each year. Students now come to school and depart from school on time with the rest of the school (9:15am-3:25pm).

Do I need to complete a waiver or transfer application for my PAT child coming to the Full Day PAT Program?

No, all students are waived/transferred as a group. Siblings who attend with a PAT child do need to complete a waiver each year if they do not live in the Carnation Elementary boundaries. If you live outside the Riverview School District boundaries you are required to get a waiver from your current school district.

Can my other children (siblings of PAT students) attend Carnation Elementary School along with my PAT child?

Yes, if space is available at the grade level your child attends then parents may elect to transfer their other children to the school as well. Parents must complete a transfer/waiver form and reapply each year unless they already live in the Carnation attendance area.

Is there a high level of parent involvement required for the PAT Program?

Parents are welcome and encouraged (but not required) to volunteer and get as actively involved with their child's classroom as possible. Both PAT teachers have regular parent volunteers in their rooms on a daily basis doing a wide variety of volunteer activities to help the classroom run smoothly. Please talk to the teachers to learn how you can get involved.

Is there a greater amount of homework in the PAT Full Day Class than in a regular ed. classroom?

The majority of parents and students surveyed on our annual PAT survey indicate that the work load and homework load for the PAT Full Day class is just about right. For some students, the transition to more challenging and engaging work is a relief and just what they are looking for. For others, it takes a few weeks to get adjusted and used to a faster pace of work and a more independent routine. Please stay in contact with your child's teachers to monitor the appropriate work load for your child.

How do PAT parents and students get to know other parents/students in the program when they all come from different schools?

The PAT Advisory Council, consisting of PAT parents and staff meets about every-other-month at Carnation Elementary School to communicate and plan special activities and events for the PAT program throughout the year. In addition, there are 3-4 PAT Family Social Activities planned throughout the school year for parents and students to meet, connect, and network. Special activities typically include: PAT Family Game Nights, the End-of-the-Year PAT Family Picnic (incoming PAT students/families are invited to attend), School Clubs, the After School Enrichment Program, Carnation PTSA Membership and activities, and much more.

In addition, each PAT Classroom will send home a list of classroom names/numbers so parents and students can connect outside of the school day. Please see your child's teacher for this information.

How do parents and staff get information about the PAT Program? About the school in general?

All PAT Parents are encouraged to attend the PAT Advisory Council which meets about every-other-month at Carnation Elementary School. In addition, our program conducts an annual student and parent survey about our program and your child's experience. Other than that we encourage open and positive communication between school and home through note writing, email, or phone/voice mail.

To share input with the school in general parents are encouraged to contact their representative on the Carnation Site-Based Council (SBC). Currently the representative for the Special Services Programs is **Mr. Richard Greenfield (425) 333-6896**. The SBC meets monthly (meetings are open to all) at Carnation Elementary School and consists of parents, staff, and the principal. There is a "Hearing of the Public" time at the beginning of each meeting and minutes for the meeting are available on the school's website.

We also encourage all PAT Parents to join our wonderful Carnation Elementary PTSA. There are numerous ways to get involved with the school through volunteering with the PTSA. The board typically meets the first Tuesday of every month and the presidents for next year will be Missy Paulsen (333-5569) and Kim Lisk (333-4855).

Will my child have the opportunity to play with other students in their grade level in the school?

Yes, we work hard to align our school recess and lunch times by grade level so that students of like grade levels can play together and eat lunch together.

Do PAT Full day students receive specialist classes?

Yes, all students at Carnation Elementary attend music and PE twice each week (30 min. each session) and library once per week (40 min.). In addition, we have a wonderful Art Docent Program at Carnation Elementary and a part-time arts coordinator (Carol Gould). Please look for ways you can be involved in these programs as volunteers are crucial to their success.

What if I have concerns about my child's progress or learning?

The procedure for school concerns is to first talk to the person most closely related to the situation or issue. The classroom teacher is usually the best person to contact first, especially if the issue is related to progress in school or learning. If the matter is not adequately resolved at the first level they you may contact the school principal or program manager (Mr. Poage 844-4553). If you have concerns about special learning issues related to your child (i.e. Speech or Language issues, behavioral issues, etc.) you may also contact our school counselor (Mrs. Marvin 844-4585) or our school psychologist, who handles special education testing (Ms. Westergard 844-4562).

What happens to PAT qualified students after 5th grade?

How are gifted student served in middle & high school?

Services for highly academically talented students are also provided at the middle school and the high school.

At the end of fifth grade every student in the district is considered for inclusion in accelerated math classes and for inclusion in the Tolt Honors Options within the regular Language Arts classes. The testing is done through the standard district tests in fourth and fifth grade. Students are not automatically continued in PAT from the elementary, they must re-qualify. Any student may chose to attempt the Tolt Language Arts Honors options whether or not they qualify for PAT. Tolt also offers an eighth grade Honors Language Arts class. At the high school level students may take honors classes and/or receive college credit for their work through advanced placement courses at Cedarcrest and/or Running Start classes at a community college.