



PREP ACADEMY

What to Expect for Parents & Students

Presented by

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CENTRAL ACADEMY



Gifted Core Pathway

- Prep Academy (7th)
- Eighth Grade Academy
- 9-12 AP Core classes



IB Diploma Programme

- For Juniors & Seniors
- Challenging Concurrency of learning
- Not the same as MYP



Specialty Courses

- 7 World Languages
- Elective classes in Mathematics, English, Art and MORE
- Unique AP classes

GIFTED CORE PATHWAY

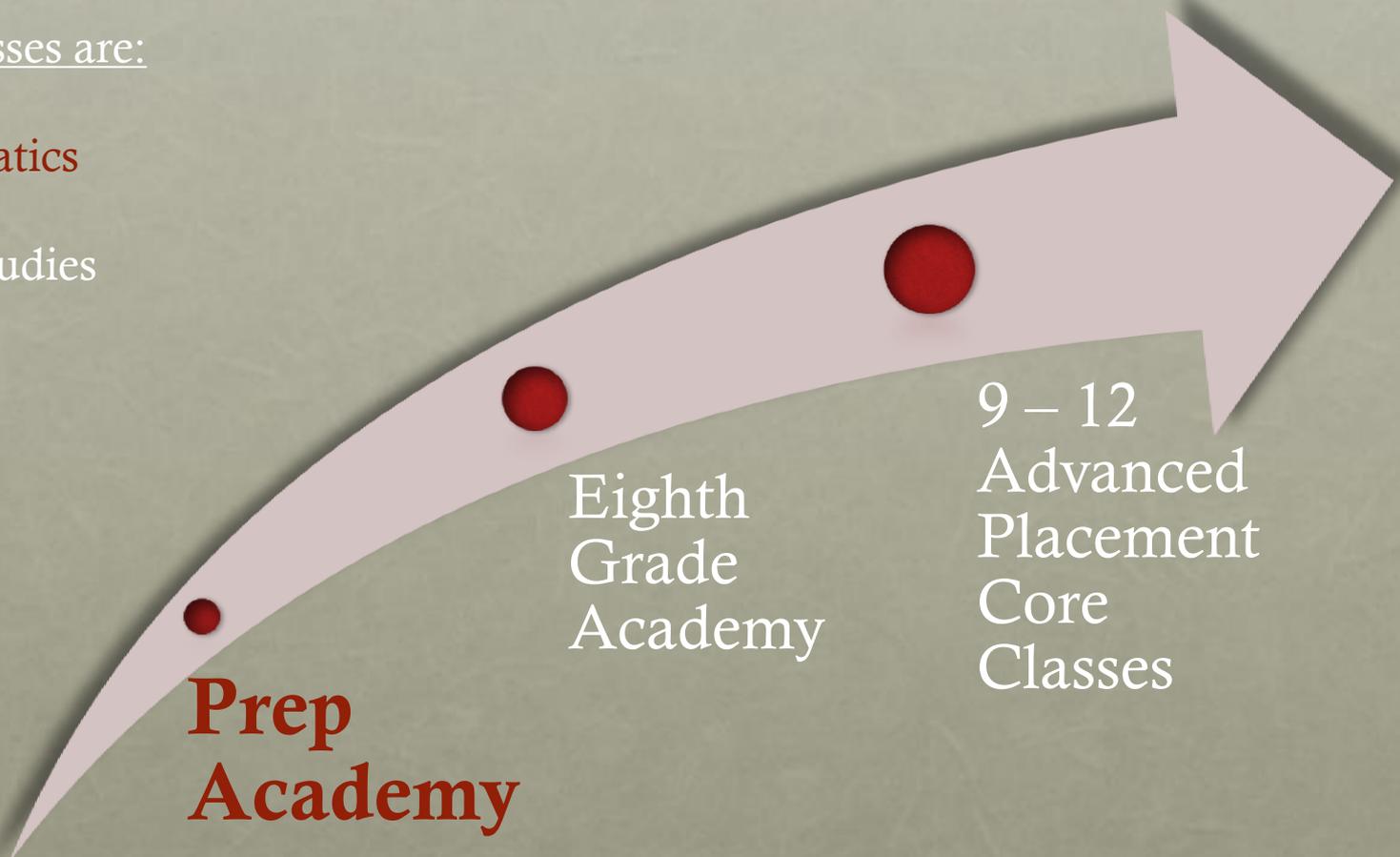
Core classes are:

English

Mathematics

Science

Social Studies



**Prep
Academy**

Eighth
Grade
Academy

9 – 12
Advanced
Placement
Core
Classes

HOW IS IT DIFFERENT?

Normal Pace

Most people need about half the class time spent in review, practice and drill of new ideas and skills.

It's like learning to swim by wading in—developing skills strategically.



Accelerated Pace

Far less class time is spent in review, drill and practice of new ideas and skills.

It's like learning to swim by diving in— it works if you have some foundational skills before you hit the water!



Both methods create Great Swimmers!

ACCELERATION PARADOX

Students with Gifted behaviors need time to process and assemble their thoughts. They have so many ideas, it takes time to sort them out, arrange them and construct them into new thinking.

To support our students, we structure our lessons to provide time to do this thinking... that's what we're doing instead of review, drill and practice.

Instead of repeating concepts, we structure lessons so students are assembling concepts themselves.

Same concepts– but more complexity.

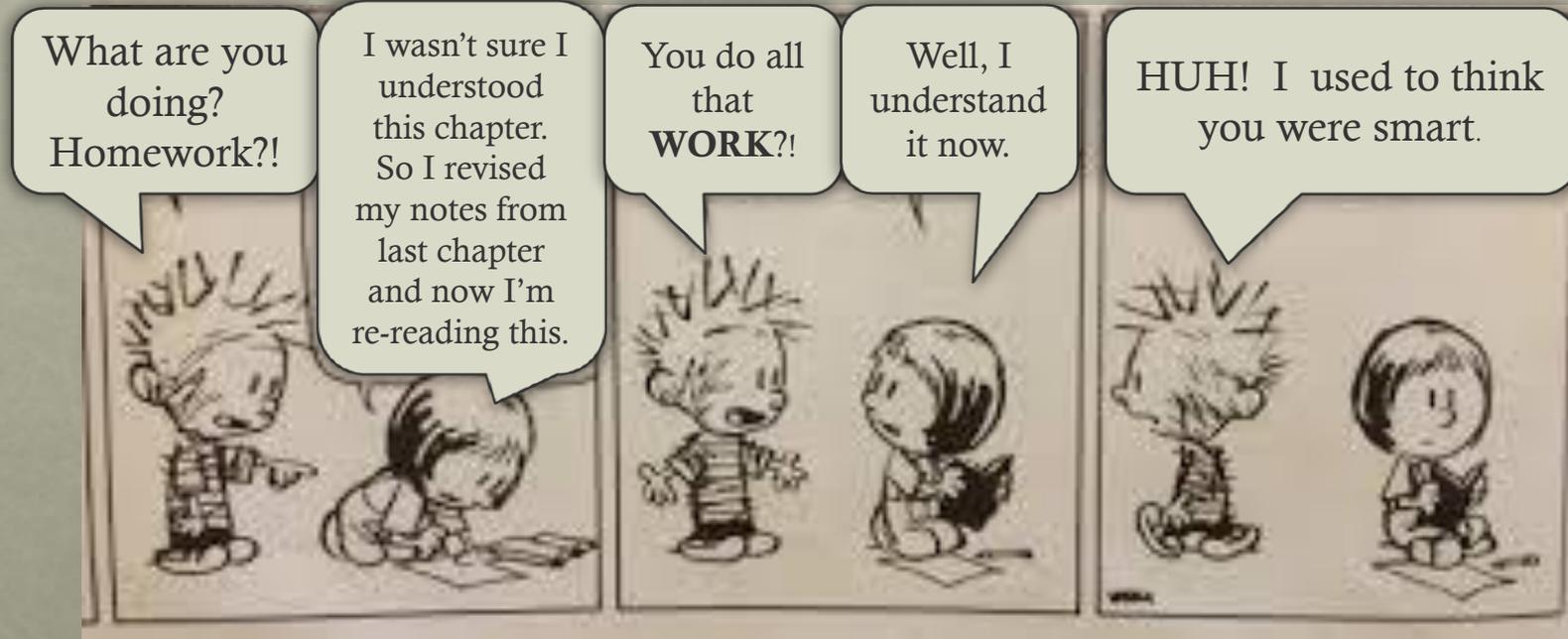
This is much more mentally draining!



SCHOLARLY LEARNING IS HARD WORK

If a student has never had to work at learning before, it can be a shock.

Struggle builds strength.



Success without struggle is not nearly as sweet!

COMMON PITFALL: FEAR OF FAILURE

First experience
with accelerated
courses: mentally
drained by
classwork

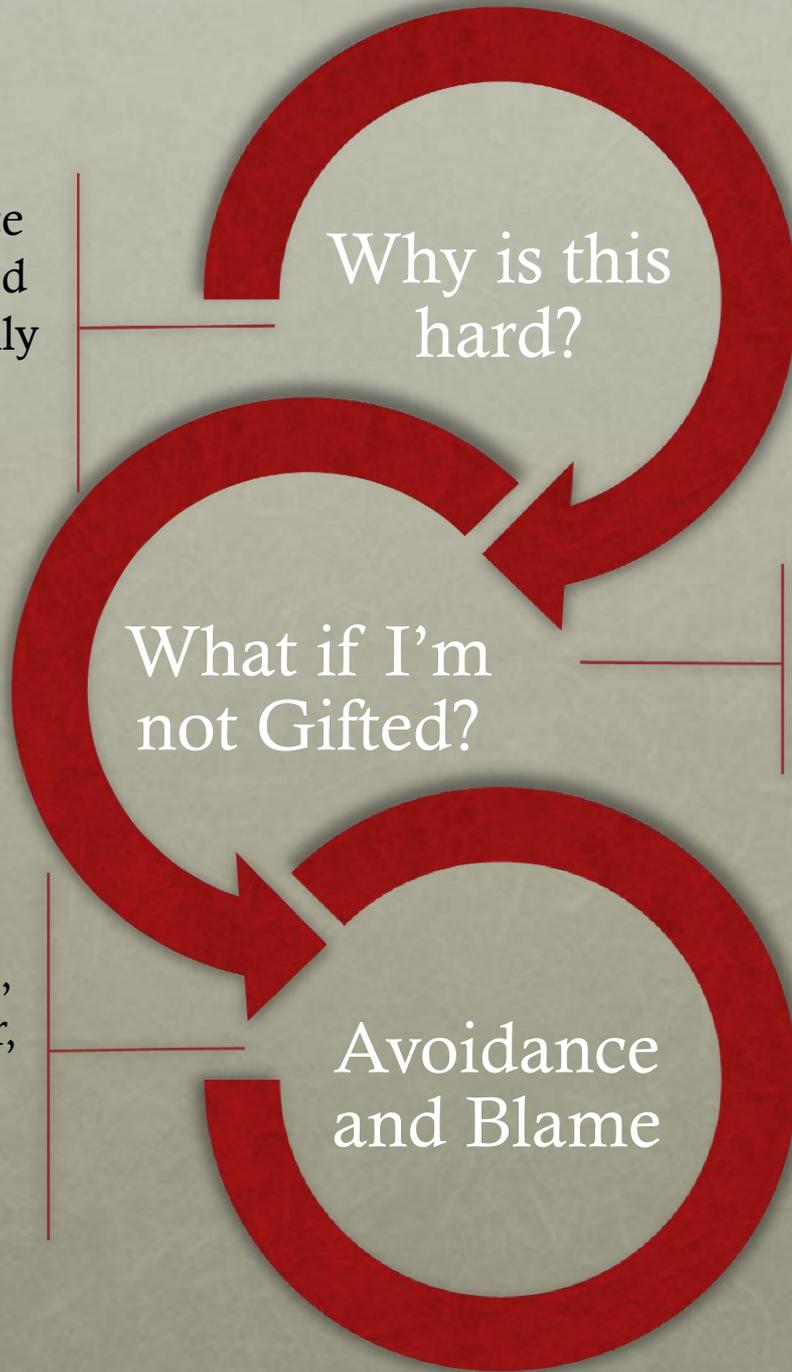
Why is this
hard?

What if I'm
not Gifted?

Worry about
meeting
expectations.

Procrastination,
escapist activities,
blame the teacher,
whining,
complaining,
feeling alone

Avoidance
and Blame



PERSISTENCE PAYS

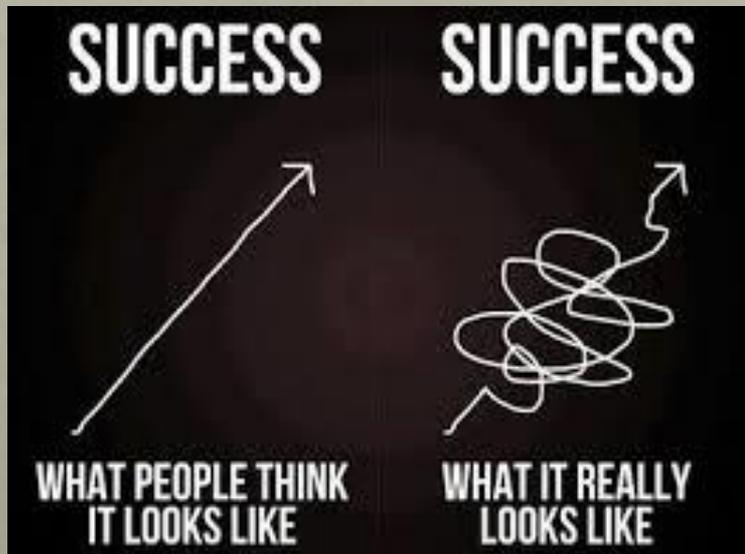
**“For it is not failure that stops most people,
but rather the belief that failure is permanent.**

**Failure is nothing more than a storm in the weather
forecast for the week – it comes and it goes, and it
waters next season’s yield because it teaches us where
we can improve.”**

*–from *The Purpose Principles: How to Draw More Meaning
Into Your Life* by **JAKE DUCEY***

AVOIDING THE PITFALL:

Support during Struggle



Even when you're growing, you will still have setbacks.

Even if the parent does not promote competition in academics, students are comparing themselves to each other.

Resilience is coping with competition.

Focus on Growth.

Winning and losing are temporary.

How to take a loss without feeling like a loser.

What happens after failure is what is important.

SUPPORT STRATEGIES

- Help keep things in perspective.
“Of course you don’t know it.
That’s why you’re taking the class.”
- Keep the thinking forward
“What are your next steps?”
- Recognize the emotion.
“That sounds uncomfortable
(frustrating, difficult).”
- Don’t alleviate the struggle.
 - “What would help you remember?”
NOT “I’ll remind you.”
 - “You’ve got to get this done. How
can I help you organize your time?”



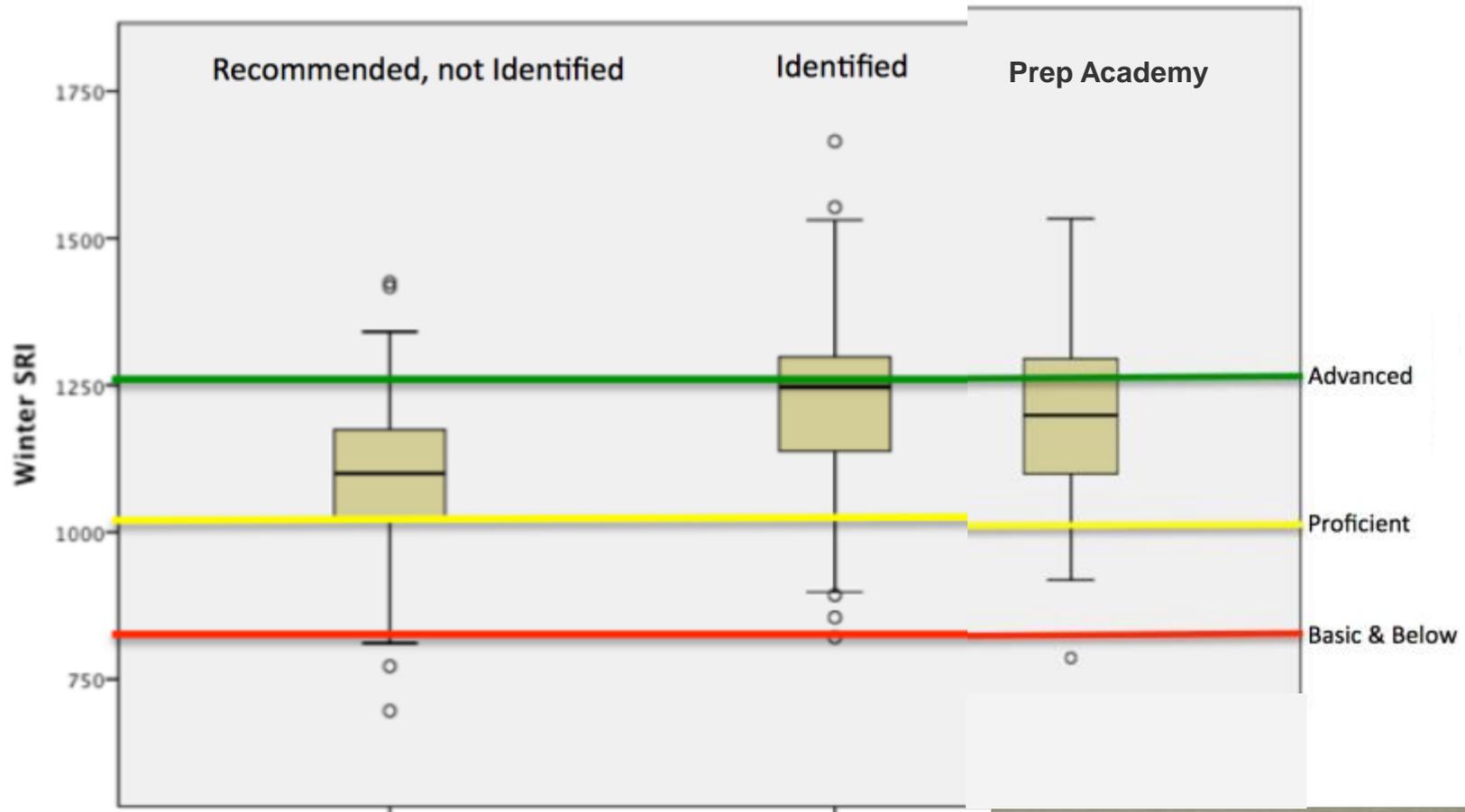
Who is fixing the mistake?

We choose to go to the moon,
Not because it is easy,
But because it is hard.

-JFKennedy

THE RESULTS: READING

Winter SRI



THE RESULTS: 2015 IOWA ASSESSMENTS

If students grow one year in skill in one year's time,
their percentile score **won't** change.

Reading

3 year average before Academy:

81

Average Score after Academy:

85

Most kids had gains.

26 of 92 kids had double digit
gains in Reading score.

Mathematics

3 year average before Academy:

77

Average Score after Academy:

78

Most kids had gains.

21 of 92 kids had double digit
gains in Mathematics score

A DAY IN THE LIFE...

- Students attend classes at Central Academy for approximately one-third their day, beginning in the mid-morning.
- **Busing is provided at no cost to families from the students' comprehensive schools.**
- Students attend 2 classes every day: English & Mathematics
- **Just before lunch a bus will take students back to their comprehensive school in time for lunch.**

ENGLISH



All students take English in Prep Academy.

- It is the foundation for reading, writing, listening and speaking necessary for success in all the other courses.
- Analysis and argument are the primary thinking skills for the class.

MATHEMATICS



Prep Academy students take Accelerated Math Year 2.

- Mathematics is the foundation to logical thinking and number sense. It is great for puzzlers.
- Must take a mathematics placement exam at the end of the year to go on in 8th grade.

HOW TO ENROLL

- Course requests due to Central Academy counseling office by **Friday, March 29th**.
 - Turned in tonight.
 - Scanned and emailed to Sandra Cloe.
 - Returned to your Middle School Counselor
- **Students must maintain an A or B in courses which are considered pre-requisites for Academy classes (Mathematics, Science, English, Social Studies)**

WELCOME TO PREP ACADEMY

Dive in!

