

1st Grade Nurturing Program

Dear Families,

In grades K-2, the AIG program is designed to explore ability and nurture talent among all students. Throughout the school year, I will visit your child's classroom and provide a whole group lesson to encourage critical, creative, and higher order thinking skills. Each higher order thinking skill is presented through a "friend," such as Dudley the Detective. Some of the thinking skills we explore include convergent and divergent thinking, spatial and non-verbal reasoning, evaluation, analysis, and problem solving.

At the beginning of the school year, students will meet Dudley the Detective. Dudley is the first of six characters students will work with throughout the year as we explore a series of higher order thinking skills. Dudley specializes in convergent thinking/deductive reasoning, or "detective work," as we call it. He teaches students to use clues to find one and only one correct answer. Students work with "Dudley the Detective" to evaluate visual and verbal clues to solve various "mystery" situations. During this unit, students will learn to:

- Consider ALL the clues.
- Be patient and take time to think.
- Cross off choices to find the correct answer (process of elimination).

Using hands-on activities, multiple intelligences, and concrete thinking maps, students tackle cases such as, "Dudley's Mystery Creatures", "Mary's Missing Dog" and "Max's Magic Number." Other hands-on activities include attribute trains, "Problem Solvers," and logic line-ups. Be sure to ask your child about the mysteries he/she is solving in class!

I look forward to learning and exploring with your child!

Sincerely,

Jenny Leeds
Gifted Education Specialist