

## **High School (Grades 9-12) G/T Curriculum Features**

The Lancaster County School District employs a “special class model” in ELA and math (endorsed by the SC Department of Education) for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades at the high school level. Special sections of each content area are provided for gifted and high-ability learners at the school. Teachers are strongly encouraged to be GT endorsed (meaning that they have had or are currently taking the graduate-level courses in gifted education required by the SCDOE). Enrichment and acceleration are featured in both content areas.

**Acceleration & Enrichment:** In both math and ELA, teachers employ above-grade level standards in specialized ELA and math courses. Students are exposed to a more rigorous curriculum as a result (increasing the depth and complexity of learning that is recommended for gifted learners). Enrichment takes many forms including advanced writing, exposure to great literary works, think deeply questioning, Socratic seminars, projects, practical application of skills and practices, relevant word problems, and problem-based learning activities.

### **Advanced Placement (AP) Courses:**

Students at all of our high schools have access to the College Board’s Advanced Placement courses. Successful Completion of AP classes can help a student in a number of ways:

- **Earn College Credit and Placement:** Your AP score could earn you college credits before you even set foot on campus. In fact, most AP students who enroll in four-year colleges start school with some credit.
- **Save Money and Time:** Earning credit or placement can open up time on your schedule or even let you graduate early.
- **Stand Out to Colleges:** “AP” on your high school transcript shows colleges you're motivated to succeed, and taking the exam demonstrates your commitment to tackle and complete college-level work.

- **Keep Your Options Open:** Earning college credit with AP can give you the flexibility to change majors, pursue a second degree, study abroad, or seek internships.

### **Dual Credit Courses:**

Students at all of our high schools have access to dual credit courses. The LCSD partners with the University of South Carolina Lancaster (USCL), York Technical College (YTC), and Winthrop University for Dual Enrollment opportunities. A variety of courses are offered each semester and upon successful completion of the courses, students are awarded both high school and college credits. There are certain requirements for taking these courses, such as a minimum 3.0 GPA at the high school level and students and parents are responsible for specific fees; however, the benefits are definitely worth the expense.

