

Good evening, my name is Molly Kaiman. I have a 7th grade daughter at GW Middle School, and a 5th grade son at Lyles Crouch Elementary. Both of my children are TAG designated students. At Lyles Crouch, it is pull out TAG and it is amazing. Both of my children have been challenged to be the best they can be, academically. At GW, the TAG students are scattered throughout OPEN enrollment honors classes. Because these are open enrollment honors classes, there are some children in there who can't even pass an SOL, and there are students such as my children who are reading and writing at a high school or college level. These TAG designated students supposedly have a Differentiated Education Plan within the honors classes at GW.

The TAG program at GW is a joke! And now I have another child who is just as bright or brighter than my daughter who will be in the TAG program at GW next year. I expect him to hit an academic plateau or start declining in SOL Language Arts scores, starting in 6th grade, just as my daughter did, once she started GW.

In 2016, the year before we arrived at GW, a group of parents suggested a separate TAG only class for Language Arts, in a letter to Mr Mazur and Ms Brearly, and a followup meeting with them. In addition, a separate firm studied ACPS, and the report suggested revamping the middle school TAG Program to include opportunities for an accelerated Language Arts Program beyond just honors, to provide a more rigorous curriculum.

Here we are in 2019, and because my kids and other gifted children just like them pass the SOL's, they don't matter. ACPS and Mr Mazur don't care about our kids. ACPS continue to focus on closing the gap between those students who can't pass the SOL and those who do, while my kids and many other TAG designated students don't get pushed to their fullest academic abilities (Thankfully ACPS changed their false mission statement that used to state that they will push every student to their fullest academic ability).

ACPS will continue to lose TAG students to private middle schools (I wish we had the money for private middle school) and continue to get non-English speaking students who can't pass an SOL. So this is a never ending cycle until you make changes to attract students who excel academically.

Keep on identifying those TAG elementary students who come from underserved communities, so you can keep up the disservice in middle school, where the honors teachers have the overwhelming task of teaching 35 students in each class with such a wide range of intellect. At GW, nobody even follows up with the teachers to see if the DEP's are actually followed or graded. At GW, the same book is assigned in HONORS Language Arts in 6th grade, that is taught in 4th grade TAG Language Arts at Lyles Crouch. Well done, GW. Well done!

Keep failing the bright kids in GW, so they can no longer handle the rigors of an honors class, or be prepared for an AP or dual enrollment class at TC Williams High School. Good job ACPS and Mr Mazur for failing my children and those whose parents can't advocate for their children, because they are working 2 jobs, are single parents, or don't know to advocate for their children.

OUR KIDS MATTER, TOO!