



THE GIFTED SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GSAC)

The Gifted Services Advisory Committee is composed of parents and citizens who make recommendations concerning the educational needs of Arlington's gifted students. In recent years, GSAC has been instrumental in securing funding for full-time Resource Teachers for the Gifted (RTGs) for each middle school, in persuading the School Board to help ensure that enough qualified teachers are available to fill the RTG positions, and in bringing the School Board's attention to initiatives to track the academic growth of each individual student from year to year, rather than simply comparing student performance to state grade-level proficiency standards. GSAC has most recently recommended funding full-time RTG positions at each elementary school, rather than the current half-time staffing levels. GSAC meets on the fourth Monday evening of every month from September through May. The Gifted Services Supervisor participates in the monthly meetings to provide information and support to the Committee.

THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INSTRUCTION (ACI)

ACI is comprised of parent representatives from each of Arlington's elementary, middle, and high schools, together with a few community organization representatives. ACI provides advice to the School Board on curriculum and instructional issues. Fourteen Advisory Committees (including GSAC), also composed of parent and citizen members, focus on particular curriculum-based topics and report to ACI and to the APS School Board. Over the years, ACI has spearheaded many important changes in the Arlington Public Schools curriculum, including proposing adding a foreign language program for elementary schools, increasing funding for school-based specialists, and implementing a distance-learning program.

The Council is made up of 40 to 50 individuals appointed by the APS School Board who are familiar with or interested in instructional issues. ACI's subcommittees include Arts Education; Career, Technical, and Adult Education; Early Childhood Education; English; ESOL/HILT; Family and Consumer Sciences; Foreign Language; Gifted Services; Health and Physical Education; Mathematics; Science; Social Studies; and Student Services. ACI meets once or twice a month, in the evening, during the school year.

Please consider joining GSAC or another Advisory Committee.

Without parent involvement, the Advisory Committees cannot do their work. The input that informed parents provide to the School Board through the work of the committees shapes the School Board's decisions about Arlington Public Schools and has a real effect on the quality of our children's instruction. Committee membership also provides parents with a wealth of information about the policies and operations of Arlington Public Schools.

You can **apply on-line** to join GSAC or any of the other thirteen Advisory Committees at the APS website, www.apsva.us. Follow the "Citizen Advisory Groups" link under the "About Us" heading on the yellow topic bar and click on the "Advisory Council on Instruction" link.

We need your participation.