

# Gunston Middle School

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**Building Our Legacy!**

Dear GMS Parents and Guardians,

The 2023-24 *Quarterly Differentiation Reports* are now available under the Gifted Services tab on the school's website. You may also access the reports by using this link:

<https://gunston.apsva.us/gifted-services/differentiation-and-newsletters/>

## ***What is Instructional Differentiation?***

Instructional differentiation factors students' individual learning styles and levels of readiness first *before* designing a lesson plan. Research on the effectiveness of differentiation shows this method benefits a wide range of students, from those with learning disabilities to those who are considered high ability. Differentiating instruction may mean teaching the same material to all students using a variety of instructional strategies, or it may require the teacher to deliver lessons at varying levels of difficulty based on the ability of each student.

Examples of differentiation in the classroom include:

- Design lessons based on students' learning styles
- Group students by shared interest, topic, or ability for assignments
- Assess students' learning using formative assessment
- Manage the classroom to create a safe and supportive environment
- Continually assess and adjust lesson content to meet students' needs

## ***What is a Differentiation Report?***

The differentiation report is a document which allows teachers the opportunity to highlight the use of critical and creative thinking skills, and other pedagogical tools to provide differentiation for gifted students, and their peers. This document is completed on a quarterly basis. This document also reflects how teachers are adjusting the content, process, product, and/or environment to meet the specific educational needs of our gifted identified students. Furthermore, this report allows teachers to showcase the rich instructional and assessment tools used that are flexible, challenging, and engage students in the curriculum in meaningful ways.

## ***What is the Purpose of the Differentiation Report?***

The purpose of this report is to provide a rich, qualitative summary and/or outline of the instructional

differentiation that has been achieved to date.

These reports also...

- meet statutory requirements which are clarified within the APS Gifted Services Handbook -
- use clear language to provide information about student learning attainment

Please do not hesitate to contact the AAC, Jawana Washington, for clarity and/or additional information at [jawana.washington@apsva.us](mailto:jawana.washington@apsva.us).

Best regards,

Jawana Washington  
Advanced Academics Coach