

Advanced Academics Learning Walk “Look-Fors”*

(circle elements evident)

Content

1. Presents content related to broad issues, themes, or problems
2. Integrates multiple disciplines
3. Presents comprehensive, related, and mutually reinforcing experiences
4. Allows for in-depth learning of a self-selected topic
5. Addresses dilemmas, controversies, biases, and ethical questions involved in the discipline
6. Addresses “unanswered questions,” or issues still not understood about this discipline
7. Requires students to formulate questions; predict and hypothesize about these questions; and judge the credibility of these explanations
8. Fosters connection between content and potential career fields and/or leadership opportunities
9. Offers opportunities for students to engage in activities aligned with students’ individual strengths, preferences or interests
10. Pulls information from varied resources and media (such as text books, articles, and primary source material)
11. Allows for the acceleration of content in an area of strength
12. Links emotion and experience to learning

Process

1. Develops independent or self-directed study skills
2. Focuses on open-ended tasks
3. Integrates basic skills and higher-level thinking skills
4. Develops complex, abstract, and/or higher-order thinking skills
5. Develops a research-oriented model for acquiring and synthesizing information
6. Encourages the acquisition of skills, methodologies, and dispositions of professionals practicing in the field
7. Offers an array of learning opportunities that include whole-class, small-group, and individual instruction and activities
8. Offers assignments that include visual and verbal components

Product

1. Develops products that challenge existing ideas and produce “new” ideas
2. Develops products that use new techniques, materials, and forms
3. Evaluates student outcomes through self-appraisal, criterion-referenced, and/or standardized instruments
4. Develops products related to real-world applications or problem-solving
5. Offers opportunities for students to interact with role models, community resources, or professionals in the field

Affect

1. Encourages the development of self understanding
2. Encourages growth and change in the student’s abilities toward self-actualization
3. Includes mentors/tutors who share common interests with students

