### Learning Characteristics
- Needs little repetition for mastery
- Has lots of information and a questioning attitude
- Uses a rich, extensive vocabulary for age or grade level
- Uses descriptive language, similes, metaphors, analogies, puns
- Makes up songs, stories, and rhymes
- Excellent memory and quick recall
- **Disagrees with others, including the teacher**
- **Refuses and becomes impatient with repetitious work**

### Accelerated Skills
- Demonstrates an unexpected mastery
- Reads widely and above grade-level materials
- Enjoys non-fiction as well as fiction
- Reads a great deal on his/her own; usually prefers higher level books
- Does not avoid difficult materials; enjoys using reference materials
- Spends free time absorbed in books (*may read when supposed to do other things*)
- Understands the meaning and use of maps, diagrams, and graphs
- **Bored with “easy” work**
- **Challenges the teacher to give harder work**

### Motivational Characteristics
- Self-directed; self-starter
- Enjoys tackling new and different problems
- Demonstrates interest in topics beyond age level, such as religion, politics, race
- Is persistent in areas of interest
- High level of curiosity; strong need to understand
- **Does not always want to do what the teacher asks**
- Self-critical, perfectionistic

### Creativity and Curiosity
- Intellectually playful
- Often offers unusual, unique, or clever responses
- Takes intellectual risks
- Displays a keen sense of humor
- Has an active imagination (likes to pretend)
- Is able to come up with lots of ideas
- Is appreciative of beauty
- **Does not follow or wait for directions (makes their own rules)**
- **At times, their ideas are grander than they are able to accomplish**
Detecting Advanced Potential
Highly capable students may exhibit many of the following characteristics and/or behaviors.

**Leadership Characteristics**
Generally directs the activity in which s/he is involved
Is self-confident
Accepts responsibility well
Is a positive and compassionate guide to others
Displays strong sense of fairness (*may over-react emotionally*)
*Can be seen as “bossy”*
*Dominates others*

**Advanced Problem-Solving**
Keenly observant
Sees similarities and differences
Sees relationships or patterns
Thinking is logical and organized
Makes accurate predictions using data
Modifies or adapts strategies to solve problems
Reasons things out for himself/herself
*Doesn’t do well on tests with limited answer choices*
*Can be argumentative*

**Social/Emotional Behaviors**
Intense feelings or emotions
Strong sense of fairness and justice
High expectations of self and others
Introspective
Enjoys fantasy – may have imaginary friends
Empathetic – intense concern for others
Independent - prefers to be alone part of the time
Friendships based on interests, not age
Marked competitiveness
Perfectionist
*End of a friendship or death of pet can cause deep distress*
*Adults can mistake emotional intensity as immaturity*
*Sensitivity and compassion for others can leave them vulnerable*
*Might camouflage their abilities to gain peer acceptance*
*May limit intellectual risks for fear of failure*