

N

Newsletters: The ALPHA/DELTA teacher along with Program Manager prepare a newsletter about current projects and activities that is send every two months with the students. It is also e-mailed to the addresses collected at the beginning of the year. The newsletter is also sent to home schoolteachers and building principals via email. Newsletters are posted on the Capital Region BOCES ALPHA/DELTA website at <http://www.bocesinstructionalresources.org/alpha/mainpage.html> along with a variety of other links and information about the program and gifted education.

P

Program Design: Class instruction is 2.5 hours per week, either in the morning from 8:00a.m. -10:30a.m. or in the afternoons 11:30a.m.-2:00p.m., or 11:40a.m.-2:20p.m. depending on the district and the building.

S

Snow Day Policy: The ALPHA/DELTA teacher follows the Watervliet School schedule; therefore if Watervliet has a snow day, the program is canceled in all schools. If a host school has a snow day the program will be canceled for those students attending ALPHA/DELTA at that school. If a host school is open but the school for the students who are transported is closed, ALPHA/DELTA will be held at the host school with as many students who can attend. If you are in doubt please call ALPHA program office at 464-3986/3987.

Staff Development Days: When Watervliet Schools are closed due to staff development or conference days, the program is canceled in all districts.



Host Schools for the ALPHA/DELTA Programs

Jefferson Elementary School (<i>Schalmont</i>).....	355-1342
Watervliet Elementary School (<i>Incl: Menands, Green Island</i>).....	629-3400

the ABC's of ALPHA and DELTA



Dear ALPHA/DELTA Parent/Guardian;

During September your child began our Capital Region BOCES ALPHA (Accelerated Literature, Poetry, & Humanities Academy) and DELTA (Distinguished Excellence in Learning Through Analytics) Programs. We are excited to have the opportunity to serve your child's intellectual curiosity in an educationally stimulating learning environment. Our ALPHA/DELTA programs are noted for providing academic experiences that are considered rigorous, dynamic and motivational.



Included with this letter is important parent/student information regarding our program. We encourage you to read it carefully.

Over the summer you were mailed a contact information form, photograph/videotape release and a permission form to take the students outside for educational purposes during ALPHA/DELTA. Thank you for signing and returning these forms promptly!

The Capital Region BOCES could not operate the ALPHA/DELTA programs without your continued support and we thank you for allowing your child to participate. We encourage you to call us at 464-3986/3987 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Amy Brennan-Strack
ALPHA/DELTA Teacher
abstrack@gw.neric.org

Mindy Noxon Iannotti
Program Manager
miannott@gw.neric.org

ALPHA/DELTA program information

We offer this information to help you and your child have a successful and rewarding school year participating in BOCES ALPHA/DELTA programs. Please take a few minutes to review this material. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these policies and please contact the ALPHA/DELTA program office at 464-3986/3987.



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A

Absentee Policy: If your child is sick or absent and will not be attending the ALPHA/DELTA program, you (parent/guardian) must call the ALPHA/DELTA program office at 464-3986/3987 by 8:00am as well as your home school attendance office.

Assessment: The ALPHA/DELTA teacher will prepare trimester evaluations on each student, which will be mailed to each child's home and your child's building principal. No grades will be given to the students in the ALPHA/DELTA programs.

Attendance: After communicating with the various building principals within our ALPHA/DELTA schools, we are encouraging a mandatory attendance policy for students attending ALPHA/DELTA if they are present at school that day. Due to the limited time your child spends in ALPHA/DELTA weekly, we feel it necessary to encourage attendance even if it means missing in school events and parties. Any questions please call the ALPHA/DELTA program office at 464-3986/3987.

B

Books and materials: The Capital Region BOCES ALPHA/DELTA program provides each child with a portfolio. We request you purchase a 3-subject notebook and pocket folder for your child to bring to every class.

C

Communication: Close relationships between parents, home school and the ALPHA/DELTA programs are crucial to the effectiveness of the program in meeting the student's needs. We sincerely hope schoolteachers and parents will contact the ALPHA/DELTA program at 464-3986/3987 with any questions or important information about individual student problems or suc-

cesses. Parent e-mail addresses are collected and information regarding assignments, projects and updates will be routinely sent to parents, administrators and classroom teachers as needed.

Curriculum: The ALPHA program focuses on a series of humanities based curriculum units combining critical thinking, problem solving, and persuasive and analytical writing. A strong emphasis is on literature and its connection to the math and sciences. The DELTA program's focus is on inquiry based problem solving and abstract thinking within a Math Science curriculum. There is a balance of individual and small group activities and projects. Challenging hands on and interactive activities are provided as well as guest speakers to connect the curriculum to real-life.

D

Discipline: Should a circumstance requiring discipline arise during the ALPHA/DELTA program, your child's ALPHA/DELTA teacher will call home initially. If the problem persists, a behavior management form will be filled out by the ALPHA/DELTA teacher and will be sent home to be signed. A copy of this form will then be forwarded to the appropriate house building principal.

H

Homework: The ALPHA/DELTA program may assign occasional homework, no more than 15-30 minutes a week. Homework is expected at the next class meeting unless other directions have been given. All students are expected to complete homework as assigned. Your child is expected to keep up with all homework assignments for their home schoolteachers as well. Please make sure your child is clear about where and how to get assignments and when they are to be completed and submitted. They will need to develop and practice strong study skills so that they learn to use their time well.



L

Lunch/Snack: All ALPHA/DELTA students meeting in the morning sessions will have time for a snack. Afternoon sessions will either have lunch in the classroom with their ALPHA/DELTA teacher or be dismissed from class and have lunch with their homerooms and return to ALPHA/DELTA for an afternoon session. This will be decided by the home district. Please make sure your child brings a snack and lunch or money for ALPHA/DELTA days.



M

Medical Issues: If you child has a medical condition you would like the ALPHA/DELTA teacher to be aware of please send in a note to be kept on file.