

for success at the next level.

Elementary Grades

The term Gift of Time defines our approach and reasoning in deciding to retain a student in kindergarten through sixth grade. The determination to give a student the Gift of Time is based on data from the year's worth of work and the level of effort and focus that a student is able to bring to his work. Mastery of skills in reading, writing, and math, as well as mastery of information in science and history in each grade level is critical for successful growth at the next grade level. If the data indicates that the student is not likely to be successful in the next grade, it is recommended that the student be given an opportunity to catch up in the curriculum and truly master it, so he is not continually required to struggle through a level of material that is beyond his ability to master.

The Gift of Time is recommended by the teacher to the principal and then to the parents. In some cases, parents will be given a choice of whether or not to accept the Gift of Time for their child. In other cases, the evidence will indicate that the Gift of Time is mandatory for the child if he is to remain at The Vanguard School.

Many factors come into play when determining whether to recommend a Gift of Time or to make it mandatory. If in the teacher's and principal's professional assessment the student has not met the grade level benchmarks, would significantly benefit from repeating the course of instruction, and will likely not be successful without repeating, then the school will make the Gift of Time **mandatory**.

If in the teacher's and principal's professional assessment, the student has not met the