

# Gateway Program Family Information

Valley Crossing Elementary School February 2, 2023

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- District Levels of Service
- Gateway Program
- Gateway Placement



#### Talent Development and Advanced Academics Levels of Service - Elementary School



Level One	ne Level Two Level Three		Level Four	
All  Open to all students. Emphasis on classroom differentiation and personalization.	Many Opportunities are open to all students who show an interest, talent or achievement in a particular area. Anyone might participate but not everyone will.	Some Services for some; Meets the need for more rigor and challenge. Emphasis on increasing depth, complexity and pacing of content standards.	Few Services for few; Individualized educational planning, acceleration and differentiation that is based on readiness and interest. Students are identified as needing this level of programming by SoWashCo Schools Talent Development and Advanced Academics.	
Level One Services	Level Two Services	Level Three Services	Level Four Services	
<ul> <li>Exposure to Rigorous Higher Order Thinking through questioning and thinking routines such as Socratic Seminars</li> <li>Differentiated content, product and/or process based on interest and readiness</li> <li>Differentiation through flexible groupings</li> <li>Enrichment opportunities such as literature circles, field trips, guest speakers and more.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Differentiated content, product and/or process of standards, based on interest and readiness</li> <li>Opportunities for advanced academic enrichments such as WordMasters and Continental Math</li> <li>Whole class, small group and/or individualized enrichment to the core curriculum</li> <li>Community education offerings after school such as robotics, chess and more</li> </ul>	Cluster classrooms in grades 3-5 with teachers trained to meet the needs of advanced learners Increased depth and complexity of content standards Enrichments and extensions to the core curriculum Adjust the pace of learning based on learner readiness Elementary Talent Development Lead at all SoWashCo elementary schools	Acceleration of content standards, based on readiness     Whole grade acceleration     Unique educational planning based on an individual student need     Gateway Program	

All students are first serviced in level one. Based on demonstrated needs, students may experience multiple levels.

#### About the Gateway Program



- Gateway has been serving elementary students in the upper elementary grades since 2006. The program has been located at Valley Crossing since 2016.
- Five classrooms: one 3rd grade, two 4th grade, two 5th grade









# We believe that every Gateway student....



#### Has an affirmed identity beyond their talent area(s)....so we

Work to develop the student's understanding of themselves as learners and build the skills needed for students to advocate for themselves over time.

Develop a sense of community within our broader school community.





#### Bring unique social, emotional, and academic needs.....so we

Provide opportunities for students to explore multiple ways to learn new skills without judgement within the learning process.

Use a variety of instructional strategies to meet unique learning styles.

Teach students about their intensities and excitabilities, show that they are understood and appreciated.



#### See the world through a unique lens.....so we

Recognize and validate students for their unique needs and passions.

Strive to engage students in relevant, challenging and rigorous curriculum that allows for exploration of student's passion areas and intense interests.



#### Thrives when learning something new each day....so we



Provide individualized learning opportunities.

Have opportunities for students to make mistakes and learn from them.

Use hands-on activities and questioning techniques to encourage further exploration of topics.

Differentiate, compact, and dive deeply into curriculum to meet our student's needs.



## Learns best in an environment that is conducive to intellectual safety, trust and self-exploration...so we

Use inquiry as a fundamental tool for encouraging learning.

Fosters student's complex questioning skills and understanding of abstract concepts.

Incorporate diverse learning experiences with intellectual peers.



#### Instruction in the Gateway Program

- Different work, not more work, and not all accelerated
- Focus on planning with that unique, "outlier" thinking as first lens
- All-gifted peer environment promotes greater affinity through deep, rich discussions
- Pacing feels different not always comfortable
- Collaborative-based classroom
- Learning how their brain works; metacognition



### A Glimpse into Gateway





#### Literacy



- Literacy instruction focuses on increasing depth of knowledge and complexity of thought.
- Students learn to compose, discuss, debate, and generate new ideas about texts.
- Students analyze texts through multiple lenses. We study author's craft, as well as character, plot, and theme development.
- We focus on integrating writing and reading. This gives students an opportunity to experience genres in multiple ways.





- Students learn at the level appropriate to their readiness, based on pre-assessments, grade level diagnostics and achievement test data as well as teacher observation.
- We push flexible mathematical thinking beyond speed and accuracy.
- Students focus on skills such as clarifying thinking, critiquing strategies, reasoning with meaning and context, creating visual representations, and looking for patterns.





#### Science



- Students learn science best by doing science.
- Science instruction occurs through use of hands-on experiences which follow the scientific method. Students ask questions, develop hypotheses, develop tests for their hypotheses, and revise their understanding of concepts based on their observations.
- Science is interdisciplinary. Students must use math and computational thinking, make choices on how to organize and communicate data, and construct logical arguments based on evidence.

#### **Social Studies**



- Students learn social studies by interacting with the concepts in order to make meaning of them.
- Social Studies is about critical thinking and analyzing primary sources. We integrate Bloom's Taxonomy to promote deeper thinking and, therefore, deeper understanding of concepts.
- We use simulations, debates, interactive notebooks, and mini-presentations.
   We infuse ELA skills into our lessons so students get a double dip of practice in meaningful contexts.



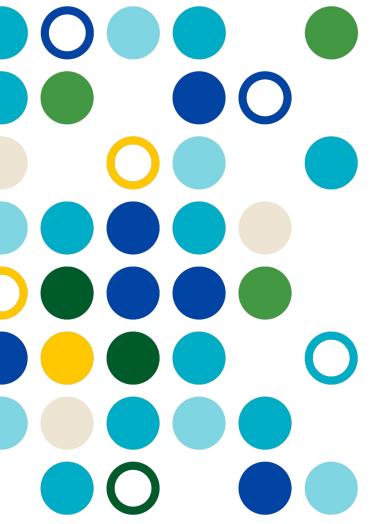
#### Transition to Valley Crossing

#### **Responsive Classroom/Morning Meeting**

- Develops peer relationships sooner
- Consistent routines and expectations
- Community building within the classroom

#### **Growth Mindset**

- Develop frustration tolerance
- Perseverance and resilience
- Teach and develop executive functioning skills





### **Responsive Classroom**





# Four Domains of Responsive Classroom

- Developmental Awareness
- Positive Community
- Engaging Academics
- Effective Management
- Responsive Classroom is embedded in our approach to teaching and learning. It's a philosophy we believe in and follow school-wide.







#### **TDAA • Levels of Service**

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"Opportunity"



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8			
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All	Many	Some	Few
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			Advanced Academics.

"Intervention"



Tier 3
Intensive Remedial
Interventions
& Supports

Tier 2

Targeted Remedial Interventions & Supports Tier 1

Effective Differentiated Core Instruction Tier 2

Targeted Enrichment Interventions & Supports Tier 3

Intensive Enrichments Interventions & Supports

Level One Level Two Level Three Level Four

All Many Some Few

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Our goal: Responding to needs



#### "Finding your people"







Students whose parent/guardian submits a Gateway Interest Form by the deadline are placed in four tiers based on the following data:

- Thinking data (CogAT) verbal, quantitative and nonverbal
- Achievement data (MAP Reading and Math)
- HOPE rating scale of advanced learner behaviors
   & characteristics

### **Gateway Placement Criteria**

		Reading Achievement	Math Achievement	Ability Measure CogAT	Teacher Rating Scale
Tier 1	Meets criteria in 3 or more categories	95% or greater in Reading and Math	95% or greater in Math and Reading	96% or greater in two or more subtests	High Teacher Rating
Tier 2	Meets criteria in 3 or more categories	95% or greater in Reading and 80% or greater in Math.	95% or greater in Math and 80% or greater in Reading	96% or greater in any subtest and 90% or greater in one or more additional subtests	High Teacher Rating
Tier 3	Meets criteria in 3 or more categories	90% or greater in Reading and 75% or greater in Math	90% or greater in Math and 75% or greater in Reading	96% or greater in any subtest	High Teacher Rating
Tier 4	Meets criteria in 3 or more categories	80% or higher in Reading	80% or higher in Math	Any student identified as an advanced learner in the SoWashCo Schools	High Teacher Rating



#### **Gateway Placement Process**

- 1. Families Submit an Interest Form (due Feb 10)
  - Gateway Interest Forms submitted at <u>https://www.sowashco.org/academics/talent-development</u>
- 2. **Gateway Placement Criteria** is used to determine placement of students in Gateway Program
- 3. Families are notified by e-mail of placement
- 4. Families confirm or decline that placement
- 5. **Transportation and current school** notified

<sup>\*</sup>please note: this is our first recent year without COVID disruptions, as we work to implement timelines



### **Siblings and Bussing**

- Siblings may attend Valley Crossing through an intra-district transfer when space is available.
- More about Valley Crossing Elementary and the <u>Multiage Choice Program</u> can be found on the school website.
- Visit student Information at <u>sowashco.org/enroll</u> for questions about the intra-district transfer process or enrollment at Valley Crossing Elementary for siblings.
- Students who are in the Gateway program and the Multiage Choice Program who live within the 833 boundary and live more than one mile away from Valley Crossing automatically qualify for bussing.

#### **More Information**

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- SoWashCo.org for important deadlines
- Gateway Frequently Asked Questions
- Gateway Interest Form
- Must submit an interest form to be considered for placement in Gateway.





#### **Video Tour**



#### **Gateway Tour**

No unauthorized recording or posting allowed.



# Next steps: What questions should I ask?

#### First, start with your current placement.

- What's currently working?
- How is my student doing academically? Socially?
- Have we found the right fit?
  - o Are there other like-minded students?



# Next steps: How do I know if Gateway might be the right placement for my child?

#### Many priorities go into a family's decision-making process:

- logistics
- siblings
- continuity
- geography
- relationships (peers, teachers, community)
- start times
- input from your child

#### Based on your answers, then ask...

Is the Gateway Program something we want to pursue?



### Thanks!

Ben Lacina,
Talent Development and
Advanced Academics Coordinator
<a href="mailto:blacina@sowashco.org">blacina@sowashco.org</a> or 651-425-6210