



VALLEY VIEW INNOVATION SCHOOL

PK-8

Enrolling PK-4 for the 2023-24
School Year



WELCOME TO VALLEY VIEW INNOVATION SCHOOL!

Valley View Innovation School offers a differentiated Project-Based Learning model designed specifically to support and nurture students who are *identified* as gifted or are ready for advanced/accelerated classes.



VALLEY VIEW MISSION AND VISION

Valley View Innovation School offers a **differentiated Project-Based Learning model** designed specifically to support and nurture students who are *identified* as gifted or are **ready for advanced/accelerated classes**.

Our vision is for each student to develop a curiosity for learning, discover their interests and passions, and grow in their love of learning. We will do this by providing a welcoming, joyful, safe, and supportive learning environment where barriers are removed, and opportunities are presented to create personal learning pathways.

- *Students are empowered to build their intellectual, emotional, social, and physical well-being.*
- *Staff, students, and community engage in collaborative relationships that foster curiosity and inclusivity while embracing academic rigor.*
- *Students have voice and choice in their learning.*



GIFTED PROGRAMS IN MAPLETON

There are several different programs and services for students identified as "gifted" across Mapleton.

1. Enrichment programs provide challenging assignments specifically designed for the needs of gifted students.
2. Customized assignments or challenge projects for small groups of gifted students in one class.
3. Acceleration options that allow highly advanced students to essentially “skip” grade levels to provide them with more rigorous academic experiences.
4. Summer enrichment and extension programs.



BUT IS THAT ENOUGH?

- In 2022, a community survey found that students generally view the quality of their education as favorable. Most students also agreed they enjoy coming to school and are excited about learning.
- Although students generally view their education favorably, many students would like more variety in class offerings.
- Specifically, parents, students, and teachers agreed that they would like to see *more support and opportunities for gifted and talented students*.



PBL AND ADVANCED, GIFTED LEARNING

- Mapleton offers a robust portfolio of schools with differing models and areas of focus, including STEM, Teacher Pathway, International Focus, Dual Language, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Expeditionary Learning (EL), and more.
- A school for academically advanced, accelerated, or gifted students has been identified as a gap or need in Mapleton.
- Project Based Learning (PBL) is a teaching method in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging, and complex question, problem, or challenge.
- PBL is the ideal approach for advanced, accelerated and gifted children!



VALLEY VIEW INNOVATION SCHOOL

- PK-8, enrolling PK-4 for 2023-24 school year.
- Accelerated learning to meet the needs of academically advanced students.
- "Cluster groupings" that allow advanced students to learn together
- Project-Based Learning and cross-curricular connections
- Immersion Studios – robotics, technology, culinary arts, art, music, science



WHO IS A VALLEY VIEW STUDENT?

Valley View Innovation School students are curious and creative critical thinkers. The unique needs of all students are supported and met through a project-based learning approach that focuses on:

- First-best instruction
- Innovative multi-disciplinary projects
- Advanced academics and additional levels of challenge and rigor
- Social-emotional learning and development
- The power of curiosity!



IS MY CHILD GIFTED?

- If you have a bright, engaged child, you may wonder if they are gifted. Gifted kids have special abilities, traits, and talents —some realized, some not yet.
- All children thrive when given enrichment opportunities to nourish their busy brains and insatiable curiosity.
- Oftentimes gifted students need support for social, behavioral, or learning issues, too.



IDENTIFYING GIFTEDNESS THROUGH A VARIETY OF CHARACTERISTICS:

- Unusual alertness, even in infancy
- Rapid learner; puts thoughts together quickly
- Excellent memory
- Unusually large vocabulary and complex sentence structure for age
- Advanced comprehension of word nuances, metaphors and abstract ideas
- Enjoys solving problems, especially with numbers and puzzles
- Often self-taught reading and writing skills as preschooler
- Deep, intense feelings and reactions
- Highly sensitive
- Thinking is abstract, complex, logical, and insightful
- Idealism and sense of justice at early age
- Concern with social and political issues and injustices



IDENTIFYING GIFTEDNESS THROUGH A VARIETY OF CHARACTERISTICS:

- Longer attention span and intense concentration
- Preoccupied with own thoughts—daydreamer
- Learn basic skills quickly and with little practice
- Asks probing questions
- Wide range of interests (or extreme focus in one area)
- Highly developed curiosity
- Interest in experimenting and doing things differently
- Puts idea or things together that are not typical
- Keen and/or unusual sense of humor
- Desire to organize people/things through games or complex schemas
- Vivid imaginations (and imaginary playmates when in preschool)



WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND VALLEY VIEW?

- All students are eligible to attend Valley View!
- Students who have been identified as "gifted" or demonstrate advanced academic skills, will be eligible for an advanced or accelerated plan.
- Typically, gifted children show extreme potential for high achievement in different academic or creative fields. These students often require different teaching methods or special programs to meet their academic and social needs.
- High achievers do not necessarily have to be gifted, and gifted students are not always high achieving. Gifted students perform well on aptitude tests, but they often have unique learning styles. High-achieving students perform well on school exams and are what we typically think of as "good" students.
- If you think your child is gifted or a high achiever, this may be the school for them!



WILL MY CHILD NEED TO BE SCREENED?

- All students interested in attending Valley View will need to be screened for giftedness.
- Screenings are not, however, to determine if your child is the "right fit" for the school, but rather whether or not your child is ready for an advanced or accelerated academic curriculum.
- In Mapleton, all children in 2nd grade are screened to identify those who are "gifted".
- At Valley View, all students will be screened prior to enrollment to determine the unique needs of each child.



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO SCREEN STUDENTS

- Screening students is important so that we can customize the learning experience.
- Academically advanced students and gifted students require as much instructional time and energy as other children. Knowing the strengths and challenges of each child allows us to appropriately group students to maximize learning.
- Screening is essentially a needs assessment to determine if your child is ready for an accelerated program.



WHAT DOES THE SCHOOL DAY LOOK LIKE?

- We believe, and research clearly documents, the benefits of keeping gifted students together for at least part of the school day, in their areas of academic strength.
- Instruction involves acceleration, enrichment, and attention to affective (social-emotional) needs. Instruction is based on various formal and informal data to assure that the needs of the students are met.

School Hours

- 8:10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Students may be dropped off between 8-8:10 a.m.

Special Programs

- Valley View has an ***Inclusive Learning Center (ILC)***, serving students in grades K-3.



COMMON MYTHS ABOUT GIFTED STUDENTS

- Gifted students do not need help. If they are really gifted, they can manage on their own.
- The social and emotional development of the gifted student is at the same level as his/her intellectual development.
- The primary value of a gifted student lies in his/her intellectual abilities.
- Gifted students are naturally creative and do not need encouragement.
- Gifted students like school, always get good grades, and are excited about school.
- Gifted students should be expected to do "more" work or have longer assignments.



NEXT STEPS

- On Wednesday, Feb. 1 – visit www.mapleton.us/enroll and complete your online application for enrollment. Be sure to select Valley View as your first-choice school!
- A representative from Valley View will contact you to schedule a screening date.
- The Welcome Center will notify you of your placement into Valley View at the end of February/early March.
- Valley View will contact you shortly after the screening to discuss the results.

