

THE ACADEMY

FOR ADVANCED
LEARNING





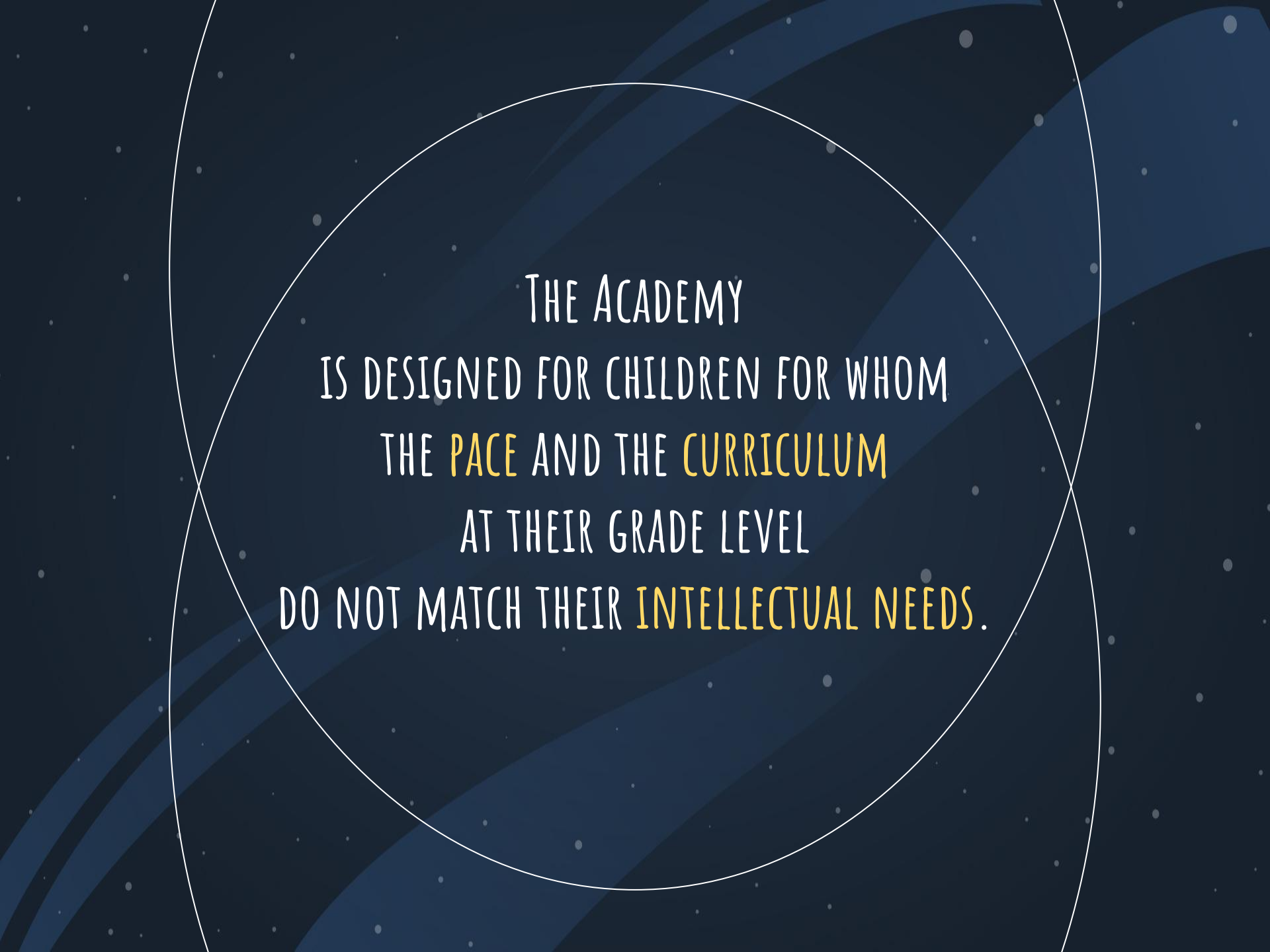
The Mather Academy's mission is to provide an instructional program geared to the **gifted student**. While our students are certainly not all alike, they do often master material with fewer repetitions, delve deeper into complex topics by both asking and exploring big questions and embracing opportunities to bring a unique and creative mind to learning activities.

The Academy offers rich **Project Based Learning** experiences using Common Core including many opportunities for discussion and analysis, and broad exposure to literature, poetry, and the arts with like-minded peers.

OUR MISSION

- A PLACE TO LEARN
- A CHANCE TO GROW
- AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CHALLENGE



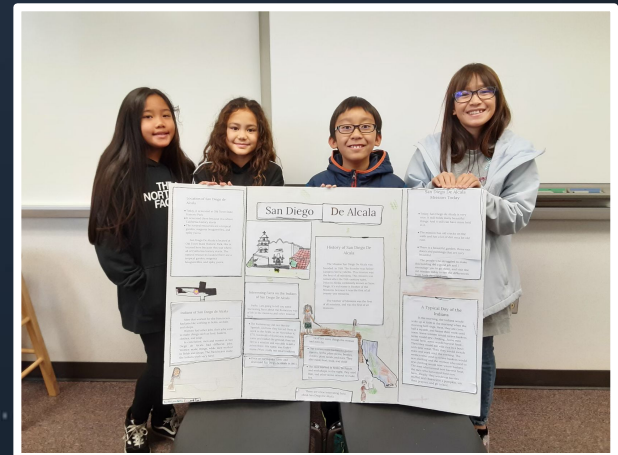


THE ACADEMY
IS DESIGNED FOR CHILDREN FOR WHOM
THE PACE AND THE CURRICULUM
AT THEIR GRADE LEVEL
DO NOT MATCH THEIR INTELLECTUAL NEEDS.

WHO WE ARE

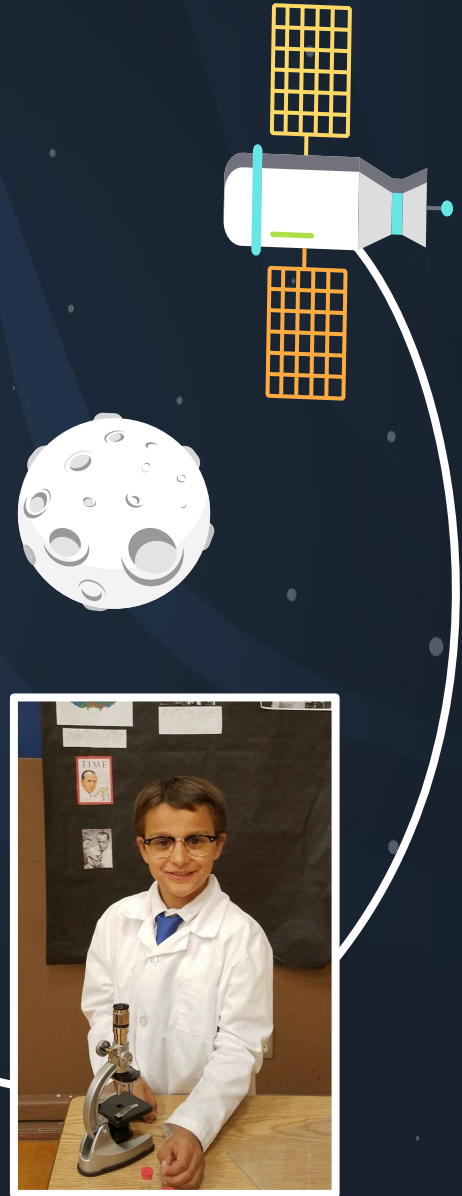
The Mather Heights Academy for Advanced Learning opened in 2011 and serves students across Rancho Cordova and surrounding communities. The Academy is designed to address the needs of high achieving students who require greater challenge, self-directed options, and an increased depth of study.

All of our teachers are trained in differentiating instruction for gifted students. There is a diverse background of expertise that includes **National Board Certification**, **Master's Degrees** in Education, **FCUSD Teachers of the Year**, artists, a court appointed special advocate, Flipped Classroom certification, a school board member, Guide Dog trainer, Girl Scout Troop Leader, and mentor teachers for beginning and continuing educators.



GOALS OF THE ACADEMY

- To provide challenge and depth in a supportive environment
- To foster a passion for learning
- To develop rigorous educational practices



ACADEMY PHILOSOPHY

01

EXTENSION
(DEPTH & COMPLEXITY)
VS.
ACCELERATION
MODEL

02

THERE IS NO
NARROW,
PRE-DETERMINED
PACE

03

CHALLENGES EACH
CHILD AT AN
APPROPRIATE LEVEL

PROGRAM CURRICULUM



MATH

PROJECT M³

MENTORING MATHEMATICAL MINDS

is a research-based mathematics program for gifted and talented Students.

ENVISION MATH

District Adopted Curriculum



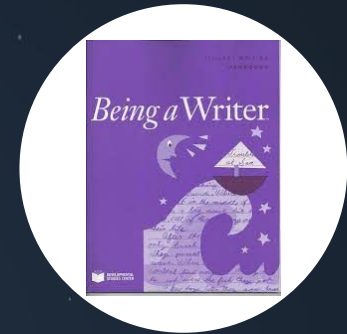
LANGUAGE ARTS

JUNIOR GREAT BOOKS

Classroom reading and discussion program that builds young minds, improves critical thinking, and promotes higher student Achievement.

BENCHMARK

District Adopted Curriculum



WRITING

BEING A WRITER

A yearlong writing curriculum for grades K–6 that combines research in the areas of writing, motivation, and learning theory with social and ethical development.

PROGRAM CURRICULUM



SCIENCE

FOSS SCIENCE

Hands-on science program for grades K–8 developed with support from the National Science Foundation. Students participate in experiments appropriate to their development and work collaboratively.

AMPLIFY SCIENCE

MYSTERY SCIENCE

STEM Projects



SOCIAL STUDIES

PROJECT BASED LEARNING

A dynamic approach to teaching in which students apply principles by exploring real-world problems and challenges.

TCI

District Adopted Curriculum



SOCIAL STUDIES

SERVICE LEARNING

Developing solutions to benefit the local community



IS IT A **PROJECT** OR IS IT **PROJECT-BASED LEARNING**?

PROJECTS

Can be done alone

About the product

Teacher-directed

Lack real-world context

Occur after the "real" learning

All projects have the same goal

VS

PROJECT-BASED LEARNING

Requires collaboration & teacher guidance

About the process

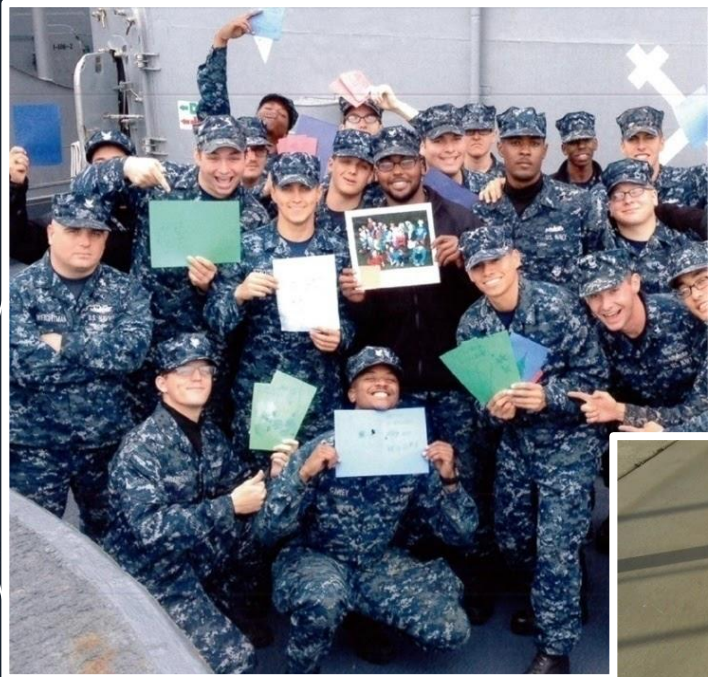
Student-directed

Based on real world experiences/problems

Real learning occurs through the project

Student choices to determine the outcome

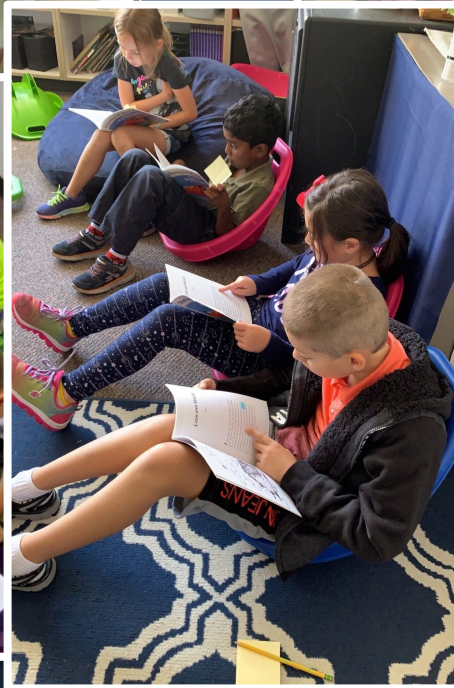
SERVICE LEARNING



ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES



DISCUSSION AND COLLABORATION

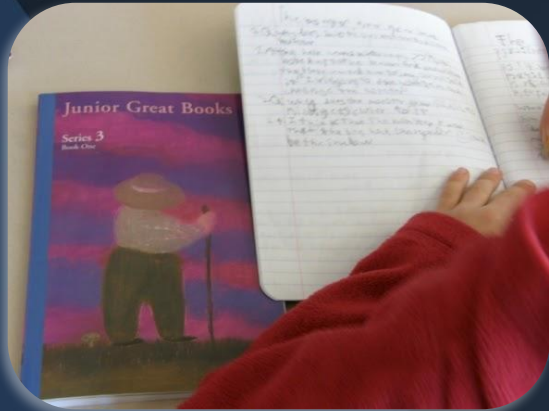




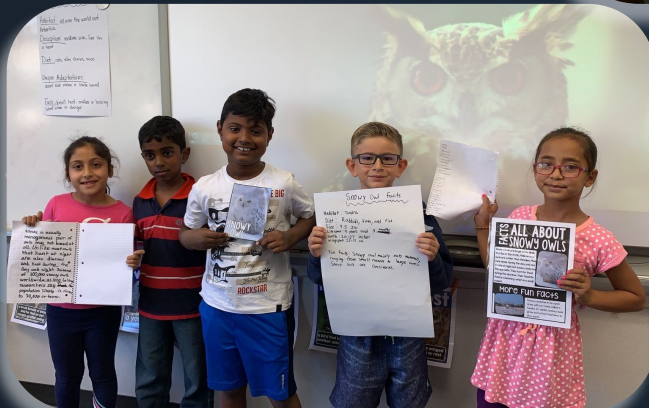
JR. GREAT BOOKS



RESEARCH PROJECTS



ENRICHMENT



SHARED INQUIRY



WHAT DO PARENTS SAY?



"I have had three children go through the Academy. They each have gained confidence, a greater ability to multi-task and achieve above grade level in subjects that were not necessarily their original strength."

"Because of high expectations and the engaging topics introduced, my child has developed strong analytical and research skills."

"I'd recommend the Academy, because my child has developed more confidence, and the teachers are fantastic!"

ENROLLMENT

SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS HAVE...

- Higher level of academic performance
 - Self-motivation
 - Curiosity and wonder
 - A willingness to be challenged
 - Perseverance and a passion for learning
- [Formal GATE identification is *not* required.]



CRITERIA

FOR STUDENTS APPLYING TO GRADES 2-5:

- Parent Nomination Questionnaire
- High Academic Achievement as demonstrated through test scores and report cards.
- Academy Assessments
 - *GATE-identified students do not take the GATE test again





Parent Nomination Form

1. Shows curiosity and desire to learn.

Very much *Yes* *Somewhat* *Not much* *Don't know*

Personal example:

2. Has a special interest or passion (if so, what?).

Very much *Yes* *Somewhat* *Not much* *Don't know*

Personal example:

3. Takes responsibility for completing assignments and homework.

Very much *Yes* *Somewhat* *Not much* *Don't know*

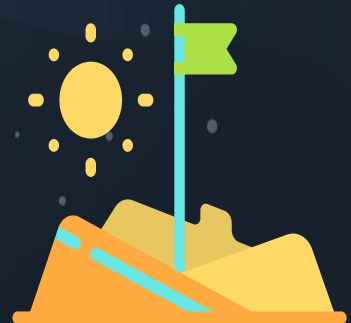
Personal example:



THE APPLICATION PROCESS

- ✓ Online Application
- ✓ Parent Nomination Form
- ✓ Academic High Achievement
- ✓ Test Scores
- ✓ Deadline for turning in all documentation for online application is:

January 13, 2023
5:00pm (PST)



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How does the Academy differ from the Riverview STEM school?
2. Is this a self-contained program or a pull-out at my child's school?
3. Will there be a lottery of all qualified students?
4. I have already registered my student at his neighborhood school. Do I need to re-register?
5. Can siblings attend the same school?



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

6. My child is not currently registered in Folsom Cordova. Can I apply?
7. Will my child participate in activities with non-magnet peers during the school day?
8. Will my child work in different groups or change teachers during the school day?
9. How will my child be transported to the Academy?



CONTACT INFO

www.fcusd.org/academy

All applications and supporting documentation for applying to Academies are due online by:

January 13, 2023 by 5:00pm (PST)



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