

Growth Mindset

Fostering a [Growth Mindset](#) is central to all of our ALERT units of study. We want students to understand the importance of effective effort in dealing with failure and challenges.

Habits of Mind

Art Costa's sixteen Habits of Mind are woven through all that we do and are essential to cultivating a Growth Mindset. Habits of Mind develop critical thinkers and help us to become lifelong learners. These are what intelligent, successful people do when confronted with new situations, challenges and/or problems.

M³ Mentoring Mathematical Minds

We will be using a unit called 'Digging for Data' from Mentoring Mathematical Minds (M³) for our math component. Students will learn how to gather, represent and analyze data as the foundation of good research.



ALERT students will be using Renzulli Learning this year. "Renzulli Learning is an interactive online system that provides a personalized learning environment for students, resulting in increased engagement and higher academic performance."
[Renzullilearning.com](https://www.renzullilearning.com)



ALERT teachers use Minecraft for Education in the classroom in order to engage students in creative thinking, problem solving, collaboration, and content related inquiry.

Welcome to Primary ALERT 2023 -2024



The Primary ALERT Team

Andrea Crowell
Jessie Hoff
Lisa Jackson
Kristie Lewis
LaQuinta Long
Alice Wofford

Mission Statement

The Richland School District Two ALERT program for academically gifted students, in association with families, the district and global community, affords each learner unique challenges to inspire the pursuit of highest academic standards by providing rigorous, differentiated curricula that cultivates excellence in leadership and lifelong learning.

Active Learning Experiences in Resourceful Thinking

Program Director
Maria Kotsaka Kratsios, Ph.D.
Associate for Advanced Programs

First Semester Focus: Crime Scene Investigation

With our first unit of study, ALERT students will examine age-appropriate CSI topics. They will look at the elements of a crime scene as they relate to our systems theme. We will look at the roles and science of crime fighting by participating in hands-on forensic lab experiments and researching practices in the field. Students will also explore the judicial side of forensics as they follow collected evidence from crime scene to the courtroom system.



This Year in Primary ALERT Systems: Investigating Interactions



Every activity in ALERT is designed to foster **creativity, critical thinking,** and a disposition for the rewards inherent in rigorous academic and cognitive challenges. ***ALERT is not a graded course;*** taking academic and creative risks is encouraged.

Second Semester Focus: Environmental Detectives

In our second unit of study, students will become environmental detectives as they look at the interactions within natural systems. We will collect and consider data to investigate the problem of dying fish in the fictitious "Grey Area". Factors of water quality, populations, and human impact will be considered as students determine the cause of the ecosystem distress.

