

- The energy of the mind is the essence of life. – Aristotle

**Westminster
School District**
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The logo of the Westminster School District is a circular seal. It features a blue outer ring with the text "WESTMINSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT" in white. Inside the ring is a white circle containing a blue silhouette of a schoolhouse. Below the schoolhouse, the text "EST. 1872" is written in blue. The entire seal is surrounded by a laurel wreath.

"Gifted children do not fall into a single pattern, but into an infinite variety of patterns."

- *Terman and Oden*





Program Goals

Westminster School District has a well established Gifted and Talented Education Program. Participating students in grades 3rd-6th are involved in a program which is designed to meet their unique needs.

Program goals include:

- Provide differentiated opportunities that will compact, enrich, and/or accelerate the regular classroom
- Alternative learning environments in which gifted and talented students can acquire the skills and knowledge that will enable him/her to aspire to the highest level of achievement in his/her chosen endeavors
- Elements that help the gifted and talented student develop:
 - ⇒ Leadership and communication skills
 - ⇒ A relationship between rigorous academics, acceleration, and enrichment
 - ⇒ Sensitivity and responsibility to others.
 - ⇒ A commitment to constructive ethical standards
 - ⇒ Self-generating problem solving abilities to expand their awareness of choices in order to make satisfying contributions to the environment

Program Design

Elementary School Program

GATE Cluster & GATE Magnet Program

Students in grades 3-6 are offered the option of a “cluster” program in their neighborhood school, or the Magnet program at Sequoia Academy. Parents may choose the cluster or the Magnet program. Placement in the Magnet program is based on space availability.

The Magnet program, at Sequoia Academy, offers uniquely appropriate units of study beyond the regular curriculum in grades K-6. Students are grouped by grade level and receive differentiated instruction in all curricular areas.

In the “cluster” program, students attend their neighborhood school and are grouped by grade level within a specific class with a cluster of GATE students. GATE certified teachers provide differentiated instruction and use the universal access portions of the core curriculum for advanced learners.

Please contact your home school or the GATE Magnet Program at Sequoia Academy to find out more information about our GATE programs.

Middle School Program

Qualified students in grades six, seven, and eight may be placed in cluster classes or honors English Language Arts and accelerated Mathematics classes based on qualifying multiple measures criteria. Advanced skills are learned through curriculum units aligned with the Common Core State Standards. Leadership abilities, critical thinking processes, and sensitivity to the needs of others are emphasized throughout the program.



GATE CURRICULUM

- Higher Order Thinking (Blooms Taxonomy)
- Universal Concept Development (Theme)
- Inquiry Based
- Cross Discipline Connections (Disciplinarians)
- Meaning Based (Depth & Complexity Prompts)
- Metacognition (I think about my learning)
- Scholarliness (Scholarly Traits) . . . *and more!*

