



Billinghurst GEMS Program

We want to share some important updates regarding our school's GEMS program. Starting 24-25 school year, our school aligned fully with the district's Gifted Education Model of Support (GEMS), as designated and guided by the WCSD GATE department.

Our school is not identified as an Accelerated Advanced Placement (AAP) site. We exclusively offer the GEMS model, which is used districtwide to support the needs of GT students through intentional clustering and instruction from a Gifted and Talented (GT)-endorsed teacher(s).

Here's what this means for our campus:

- GT-endorsed teacher(s) will lead a clustered class of GT-identified students in at least one core subject area (e.g., ELA, math, science, or social studies).
- GT students will be clustered into a single section, which will include non-GT peers.
- The GEMS model ensures that GT students receive rigorous instruction in at least one core subject with an appropriately trained GT-endorsed certified teacher.

This brings us into alignment with other GEMS-designated schools in the district and ensures we're following research-based practices designed to support the needs of gifted learners. Additionally, we intentionally include students who demonstrate strong academic motivation and have shown measurable progress in their current classes and on standardized assessments.

To help clarify the different models in our district, here's a quick comparison:

Feature	GEMs Model	Magnet Model	Magnet-AAP Model
Location	Zoned schools (e.g., Billinghurst, Herz, Depoali)	Magnet campuses (e.g., Herz, Sky Ranch, Swope)	Clayton Middle School
Entry	Automatically placed if identified as GT	Application required	Application required
Eligibility	GT-identified only	GT-identified only	GT-identified + high-achieving non-identified
Instructional Setting	GT cluster with at least one GT-endorsed teacher within their schedule	Cohort of GT students in all core subjects	Cohort of high-achieving and GT students in all core subjects
Teacher Credentials	GT-endorsed teacher (at least one per grade, per one core class)	GT-endorsed teacher (for all grades, all core subjects)	GT-endorsed teacher (for all grades, all core subjects)
Curriculum	Taught in a rigorous core instruction, greater levels of complex order of thinking. Standard curriculum (same for all students)	Accelerated, rigorous curriculum in all subjects – provided by the GATE department	Accelerated, rigorous curriculum in all subjects – provided by the GATE department

We are committed to supporting our GT students through the fully aligned GEMS model. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the people below:

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