Gifted and Talented | POUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Rocky Mountain High School

When Rocky Mountain High School was established in 1973, its moniker was “the people place.” This idea runs through everything that we do at Rocky, including our Gifted and Talented program. We focus on being a source of support, help and encouragement for our gifted students. We focus on helping students develop their personal interests and sense of self through programming opportunities that emphasize service, scholarship and self (including wellness and self-care).

https://sites.google.com/psdschools.org/rmhs-gifted-and-talented/home

325
Average GT students

1831
Total student enrollment

Programming Opportunities for Gifted Learners

- **G/T Independent Research Seminar**: This class allows students to research a topic of choice. Students arerequired to complete research logs, attend required meetings with Ms. Otteman and complete a final research paper or project. This independent study is open to 11th and 12th graders.
- **Lobo 101 GT Enrichment** : This “pull out” group gives 9th grade GT students the opportunity to meet with other gifted students at Rocky.. Students meet once a week with Ms. Otteman during their 2nd or 4th period Lobo 101 class. Our focus is determined each year by students; past groups have focused on leadership and service, career exploration /guest speakers and topics relevant to gifted learners such as perfectionism and executive

order functioning .

- **GT Service Independent Study:** During students' sophomore, junior or senior years, they may sign up for an independent study and earn credit for implementing the service project they designed in their Lobo 101 class.
- **Mentorships**: Interested students may apply to take part in the mentorship program through PSD. Students meet with the district coordinator, who will help them understand the expectations and requirements of the mentorship program.
- **Elementary School Tutoring Class**: GT students who are interested in working with elementary students work at Lopez Elementary and provide tutoring or enrichment activities for 3rd -5th grad students. This class is open to 10-12th grade students and is offered 3rd term and 4th term. Students may sign up for one or both terms. Credit is based on the number of hours RMHS students tutor and develop lesson plans. Typically, students earn 1-2 hours of credit. Students who participate in this class must provide their own transportation to and from Rocky to the elementary school where they work.
- **GT Mentoring with Middle School Students:** Our mentoring program is designed to support 8th grade GT middle school students as they navigate their 8th grade year and prepare for high school. Middle school students meet with their mentors once a month and discuss such topics as mental health, opportunities in high school (extracurricular and academic) and other topics deemed important to middle school students. High school mentors are typically 11th and 12th graders. Students who participate in this activity must provide their own transportation to and from the middle school where they work. This class often is offered during Rocky's late start/student support time to accommodate the differences between high school and middle school schedules and avoid impacting high school students' classes at Rocky.
- Additionally, Rocky offers exceptional courses for gifted learners. Students are able to enroll in 20 different Advanced Placement courses, as well as pre AP courses in several disciplines. Furthermore, students may opt to enroll in the Concurrent Enrollment program, through which they may take CSU or Front Range courses, or the Extended Studies program in which they may earn college credit from the University of Colorado at Denver.

Gifted and Talented site coordinator:

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Overview of the GT program at this school

RMHS's GT Program:
At Rocky Mountain High School, our goal is to provide a supportive, challenging environment for gifted and talented students. We ask G/T students to develop personal goals which will help them grow as learners and prepare them for the future. Our teachers develop curricula that encourage critical thinking and analysis, and challenge students daily to grow as learners.

Our counseling department provides outstanding personal support and college advising. Rocky is an exceptional place, offering numerous stimulating and engaging courses, enrichment activities, and a chance to become a part of the "Lobo Way." Rocky's G/T coordinator is a Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) who spends 1/3 of each day working with G/T programs and students.

Site-Based Gifted and Talented Services Overview

Advanced Learning Plan process at this school

Advanced Learning Plans are housed in Xello, PSD's College, Career and Post-Secondary Readiness platform. As freshmen, students create a long term goal that also doubles as their ICAP goal. Each year, students will be asked to edit their goals to accurately reflect their personal path. The ALP process can be found here: https://sites.google.com/psdschools.org/rmhs-gifted-and-talented/home/advanced-learning-plans

Programming opportunities for GT students

- **G/T Independent Research Seminar**: This independent study is open to 11th and 12th graders.
- **Mentorships**: Interested students may apply to take part in the mentorship program through PSD.
- **Elementary School Tutoring Class**: GT students who are interested in working with elementary students work at Lopez Elementary.
- **Middle School Mentorship Program**: GT students who are interested in mentoring younger GT students work with middle school students at Blevins Middle School.

Enrichment opportunities for GT students during school

Rocky Mountain High School offers 73 activities for students (40 school sponsored and 33 student initiated). The majority of these groups meet during the day, but these groups also conduct practices, competitions, activities and field trips after school. Twenty three of Rocky's activities offer curricular and academic enrichment, 15 offer leadership and service enrichment, and 9 offer creative enrichment. Rocky also has a wide variety of unique activities to help enrich gifted learners' social interactions as well, ranging from anime clubs to movie clubs.

- Book Club
- Selective College Planning Group
- Creative Writing Group
- College Visit Field Trips
- Wellness Workshops
- Research Day
- Field Trips
- Guest speakers

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Enrichment opportunities for GT students before or after school

Because of Rocky's late end to the school day, the majority of our enrichment activities meet at lunch or before school. This also allows high school students a chance to participate in athletics, school clubs or work.

College Application and Essay Workshops: Rocky offers several before school workshops for seniors during the 1st term. These workshops focus on completing college applications and assistance on college essays. These workshops are open to GT seniors.

Affective programming for GT students

Wellness Workshops: Targeted to Rocky's 9th graders, this once a month group meets at lunch. We focus on how to maintain mental and physical wellness by discussing such topics as: a tour of Rocky's Wellness Center, Anxiety/Copy Strategies and the Gratitude's impact on our mental and physical well-being.

Monthly Wellness Workshops: These workshops are open to any GT student who wants information or a refresher on different wellness topics. Workshops are based on student need/interest; we cover such topics as nutrition, sleep, strategies to manage anxiety, maintaining balance with classes, extracurriculars and sports, perfectionism and gratitude.

Site-Based Gifted and Talented Services Overview

All counselors at Rocky are able to provide individual counseling for our gifted population. We also have a counselor who works full time in our Wellness Center. If GT students have social/emotional concerns that are prohibitive to classroom work, they may ask for a contract in the Wellness Center so that they may visit the Wellness Center during class time. Students also are welcome to drop in and use the Wellness Center on their off periods. Peer counselors and student Link Leaders also are available as a resource for students who need connections to or assistance from other students at Rocky. Teachers receive a copy of students' ALPs so that they can provide social and emotional support and guidance in the classroom setting.

Grade-specific GT services

- Ninth Grade: Wellness workshops, Lobo 101 pull-out groups, book club, GT quarterly meetings, college visit trips, field trips, creative writing group, Research Day poster presentation, mentorships.
- Tenth Grade: Wellness workshops, tutoring class,book club, college planning workshops, college visit trips, field trips, creative writing group, volunteering at elementary schools, Research Day poster or oral presentation, mentorships.
- Eleventh Grade: Wellness workshops, tutoring class, book club, college visit trips, field trips, creative writing group, middle school mentoring program, Research Day poster or oral presentation, college planning group, independent study, mentorships.
- Twelfth Grade: Wellness workshops, tutoring class,book club, college visit trips, field trips, creative writing group, middle school mentoring program, Research Day poster or oral presentation, independent study, college essay/application workshops, mentorships.

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