



Gifted and
Talented



POUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Kinard Core Knowledge Middle School



With approximately one-third of the student population participating in Gifted and Talented (GT) education, Kinard Core Knowledge Middle School supports a robust GT program where students are meaningfully engaged in learning experiences designed to help them achieve their Academic and Affective Advanced Learning Plan (ALP) Goals, integrated with their Individual Career and Academic Plans (ICAP). Kinard is committed to ensuring high levels of learning for all students and fosters a safe, inclusive community where staff are responsive to the unique needs of learners.

The Kinard GT program empowers students to develop personalized Academic and Affective Skill Goals for growth. The program focuses on intentional development for Colorado Academic and Essential Skill Standards with personalized enrichment options connected to students' passions, inquiries, and potential future career interests.

Kinard's GT Site Coordinator plays a vital role in the GT identification process by thoroughly analyzing academic data for all incoming and newly enrolled students. This process includes careful consideration of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and twice-exceptional characteristics to support equitable identification practices.



267

Average GT
students

804

Total student
enrollment

To build authentic ALP Goal learning experiences, the GT Coordinator partners closely with teachers to develop classroom extensions that engage students for high interest learning paired with depth and complexity to grow in advanced knowledge and skill. Students practice development of their Affective Goal through Essential Skill lessons embedded in course curriculums, ALP Affective enrichment groups, and with the GT Site Coordinator partnering with students, parents and guardians.

Kinard and its GT Program offer a wide array of accelerated options, enrichment opportunities and leadership service programs that support students' individual needs, interests, and goals. Together, these experiences help students grow academically, develop essential affective skills, and take ownership of their learning and future pathways.

<https://bit.ly/KINARDGT>



Programming Opportunities for Gifted Learners

Sixth through eighth graders who meet the academic qualifications have opportunities for accelerated math courses for high school credit, and all students are also offered world language courses (high school credit for 1B & 2). Seventh and eighth graders can apply for honors courses in English, Science, Select Choirs, Symphonic Band and Symphony Orchestra. Kinard's Gifted and Talented Program is aligned to Colorado Academic and [Essential Skill Standards](#). Students with ALPs explore areas of interest through inquiry projects, career mentorship, college visits, service learning, philanthropy, innovation in technology and engineering, performing and visual arts, content extensions and ability grouping.



Gifted and Talented site coordinator:

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Overview of the GT program at this school



Kinard's GT Program:

- Encompasses 267 students identified for Gifted and Talented with Advanced Learning Plans.
- Establishes fidelity in the identification process by recognizing all essential factors including culturally, linguistically diverse and twice-exceptional characteristics.
- Develops authentic ALPs aligned to Colorado Academic state standards with goal choice enrichment options that inspire and challenge students to achieve at high levels.
- Focuses on strength-based approaches to advance students' knowledge and skills.
- Provides learning experiences beyond the classroom with real world connections.
- Connects students with similar interests through a wide variety of enrichment opportunities.
- Provides extensions for deeper inquiry into the Core Knowledge curriculum.
- Empowers students' personal and future success through the Colorado Essential Skills Standards.

Advanced Learning Plan process at this school



Students in Kinard's Gifted and Talented (GT) Program collaborate with staff, teachers, and parents/guardians each fall to develop new Advanced Learning Plan (ALP) goals. This student-centered process empowers learners to take ownership of their growth, moving from initial engagement to meaningful, personalized goal setting aligned with their identified areas of strength.

With input and guidance from teachers, the GT Coordinator, and parents/guardians, students identify the academic skills most relevant for growing their GT strength area(s) within their core content courses (i.e. math and ELA classes). The selected academic skills for growth form the foundation of the **Achievement Goal**. Additionally, GT enrichment opportunities—aligned to students' special interests, compelling inquiry, or specific academic challenges—can be added to further deepen and personalize the student's learning journey beyond the Core Knowledge curriculum.

The **ALP Goals are blended with the ICAP (Individual Career and Academic Plan)** and uploaded to [Xello](#). This transparent approach provides year-round accessibility to the ALP for students, families, and teachers, allowing for tracking of ALP goal progress and to continue the development for long-term college and career planning.

Throughout the year, students meet with their GT Coordinator and specific academic teachers for their Achievement Goal skill growth and enrichment options. Academic skill progress connected to the student's GT identification area(s) are tracked and managed in the student's content course(s). The Achievement Goal enrichment options create daily, weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly opportunities for students to actively participate with their teacher or GT Coordinator and their group in collaborative student-centered learning largely during the school day.

Equally important to academic development of students in the Kinard GT Program is the cultivation of the Colorado Essential Skills—a set of standards that are competencies required for post-secondary success, workforce readiness, and active citizenship. These skills include Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Self-Direction, and Self-Awareness to name several.

Each year, students explore the Essential Skills in meeting with the GT Coordinator to begin the process of selecting their **Affective Goal**. Using a rubric and linear scale, students self-assess their confidence and proficiency in the Essential Skills. Based on this reflection, they choose one skill as a focus area for growth over the academic year.

This selected skill becomes the student's Affective Goal, practiced both in and out of the classroom. Students have structured opportunities throughout the year to receive instruction, reflect on their progress, engage in self-assessment, and receive feedback from teachers and the GT Coordinator in support of continued development.

Programming opportunities for GT students



Accelerated math classes for high school credit; World Language courses for high school credit; honors courses in English and science; Select Choirs, Symphonic Band and Symphony Orchestra; ALP goal enrichment options including inquiry projects, career mentorship, college visit, service learning, philanthropy, innovation in technology and engineering, performing and visual arts, content extensions, ability grouping, and world language courses for high school credit.

Enrichment opportunities for GT students during school



For more information please visit our website at: <https://kin.psdschools.org/academics/challenge>

- Accelerated math courses for high school credit
- Advanced Physical Education
- Art: visual, pottery/sculpture
- Creative Foods (sewing and cooking)
- Drama/Performing Arts
- [Global Leadership](#)
- Yearbook
- Honors English and Science
- [Kinard CARES](#)
- LEGO Robotics
- Music: Advanced [Choir](#), [Band](#) and [Orchestra](#)
- Schoolwide Student-Selected Enrichment (3 days per week)
- [Science Olympiad](#)
- Service-Learning
- Tech/Engineering: 3D modeling; app design; coding
- WEB Leadership Program
- World Language courses for high school credit

Enrichment opportunities for GT students before or after school



- Athletics
- Fitness Club
- [Give Next Philanthropy](#)
- [MathCounts](#)
- National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)
- [Science Olympiad](#)
- [Student-led Clubs](#)
- Student Wellness
- Theatre Club

Affective programming for GT students



At Kinard Core Knowledge Middle School, students are empowered to achieve personal and academic growth, exploration for college and career readiness, and are supported as neurodiverse learners in their general wellness and mental health through a team approach led by Kinard's school counselors, and in collaboration with teachers and the Kinard GT Program. The Kinard GT Program specifically develops capacity through aligning the ALP Affective Goal choices to the Colorado Essential Skills state standards and offering small group ALP Affective Enrichment sessions. Students and parents are provided with the Essential Skills from CDE to discuss and select a relevant and authentic Affective Goal. Students in the GT program complete check-ins and a reflection with the GT Site Coordinator on their progress growing in their goals. Additionally, there are opportunities available for more in-depth goal choices where students can discuss challenges and successes in a safe environment with a school counselor and with other students who share similar affective goal needs.

- For more on the Colorado Essential Skills, please visit: [Colorado Essential Skills](#)

Grade-specific GT services



Students can participate in a wide variety of GT Program enrichments: Book Club, Book Challenges, Author Study, Writer's Circle, Independent Study / Inquiry, Technology Exploration, as well as Affective Goal Sessions for Stress and Time Management, Organization, Perfectionism, Adaptability/Flexibility, Peer Interactions, Goal Setting, and more. Short term career mentorships are also possible options as an ALP goal enrichment for students. These opportunities allow students in Kinard's GT Program to connect academically and socially with their community while exploring their individual interests. In career mentorships, the student conducts an individual interview, and with a parent, may make a site-visit to the community member's place of work. For 8th graders with ALPs, there are opportunities through the Kinard GT Program for a virtual or in person college visit to a Colorado higher education institution during the school year.

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