



Gifted and Talented



POUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Kinard Core Knowledge Middle School



With approximately one third of the student population in gifted and talented education, Kinard has a thriving GT Program where students are authentically engaged in learning experiences to achieve their academic and affective ALP goals. Kinard is dedicated to ensuring high levels of learning for all students and fosters a safe community where staff are responsive to the individual needs of students. Kinard's GT Site Coordinator analyzes all academic data for incoming and newly enrolled students and establishes fidelity in the identification process by recognizing all factors including culturally, linguistically diverse and/or twice-exceptional characteristics. In addition to creating authentic learning experiences for students with ALPs, the GT Coordinator collaborates with teachers to support the advanced academic needs of learners in the GT program for their continued successful growth and achievement in knowledge, essential skills and Kinard character. Kinard offers a wide array of accelerated options, enrichment opportunities and leadership service programs that enhance learning for gifted and talented education.

<https://bit.ly/KINARDGT>



247

Average GT students

763

Total student enrollment



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, Social Studies, Select Choirs, Symphonic Band and Symphony Orchestra. Kinard's Gifted and Talented Program focuses on development of critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication. 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 247 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 gifted and talented 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 GT Program collaborate with staff, teachers, and parents to explore and choose their Advanced Learning Plan (ALP) goals which are newly created in the fall of each year. Through a student-driven process, learners in the Kinard GT Program move from engagement to ownership as they grow their exceptional abilities through their ALP goals. With teacher input for requisite skills, students decide which academic skill they most need to grow in for their GT identified area(s) of strength inside their content course(s). The ALP Goals are selected through Xello as a blended ALP / ICAP (Individual Career and Academic Plan) which supports transparency and access to ALPs for parents/legal guardians, teachers and students throughout the school year with being able to easily view individual progress of personalized ALP goals including the student's individual short term and long term career planning. The student's selected academic skill(s) are the base for the Achievement Goal. Additionally, there are many enrichment options that students can add on to their Achievement Goal as they seek a pathway that is authentic and inspiring in pursuit of a personal interest, a compelling inquiry, a special challenge or a supplement to their educational opportunities provided by the Core Knowledge curriculum. Throughout the year, students meet with their GT Coordinator and specific academic and enrichment teachers for their Achievement Goal skill growth and academic 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 or monthly opportunities for students to actively participate with their teacher

or GT Coordinator and their group in collaborative student-centered learning.

With equal importance, a focus is placed on student development and growth in the standards Colorado Essential Skills. These required skills to teach in Colorado are often referred to as post-secondary, social-emotional and workforce ready skills that each individual needs to acquire with expertise for participation as an active citizen. The Colorado Essential Skills are the focus for the Affective Goal. Each year, the process to select an Affective Goal begins with the students meeting with the GT Coordinator to review ten Essential skills identified as most important for middle schoolers with exceptional abilities. Using a rubric and on a linear scale, students are guided to self-assess their confidence and ability with each skill. Students then select one of the Skills as a focus to grow in preparation towards graduation and workforce readiness. This is the launch point for the Affective Goal that is practiced both in and out of the school day. During the year, students have opportunities to reflect and assess their goal growth in addition to the feedback they receive from their teachers.

Programming opportunities for GT students



Accelerated math classes for high school credit; honors courses in English, science and social studies; Select Choirs, Symphonic Band and Symphony Orchestra; ALP goal enrichment options including inquiry projects, career mentorship, college visits, service learning, philanthropy, innovation in technology and engineering, performing and visual arts, content extensions, ability grouping, cluster 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> and for details on course descriptions, please visit <https://kin.psdschools.org/students>

- Accelerated math courses for high school credit
- Advanced Physical Education
- Art: visual, pottery/sculpture
- Creative Foods (sewing and cooking)
- Drama
- Entrepreneurship
- [Global Leadership](#)
- Honors: English, science and social studies
- [Kinard CARES](#)
- Lego Robotics
- Music: Advanced [Choir](#), [Band](#) and [Orchestra](#)
- Science Adventures
- [Science Olympiad](#)
- Service-Learning
- Tech/Engineering: 3D modeling; app design; coding
- WEB Program
- World Language courses
- Yearbook

Enrichment opportunities for GT students before or after school



- Athletics
- Creative Writing Club
- Drama Club
- Fitness Club
- [Give Next Philanthropy](#)
- Lego Robotics
- [MathCounts](#)
- National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)
- Rhythmic Writing
- STEM Club
- [Science Olympiad](#)
- [Student-led Clubs](#)
- 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 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. 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 have opportunity to discuss challenges and successes in a safe environment with a school counselor and with other students who share similar affective goals. For more on the Colorado Essential Skills, please visit: [Colorado Essential Skills](#)

Grade-specific GT services



Students in 6th and 7th grade Kinard GT can choose an ALP enrichment that develops leadership skills by participating weekly with the GT Coordinator and the 8th grade Service-Learning ELO. Students in 6th - 8th grade, with a passion for making a difference in their school or local community, can select a weekly ALP enrichment with the Kinard Student Social Justice Team or the Give Next Philanthropy Program. Students in 6th-8th grade, with expressed career interest in engineering, can attend CSU's Engineering Day held during the spring. Short term career mentorships are also possible options as an ALP goal enrichment for 8th grade 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 all 8th graders with ALPs, there are opportunities through the Kinard GT Program for a college visit to a Colorado higher education institution during the school year.