



Gifted and Talented



POUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Polaris Expeditionary Learning School



Polaris is the only school within PSD to offer the Expeditionary Learning model. Our learning environment naturally gives teachers the ability to differentiate for students who are gifted learners, or who have other special learning challenges and needs. Colorado standards are utilized to design in depth studies of compelling topics over an extended period of time, also known as Expeditions. Students can dive into their passions during frequent fieldwork experiences, intensives, and Adventure trips. At Polaris, the Expeditionary Learning approach creates life-long learners who can think critically, solve problems creatively, and adapt successfully to an ever changing world.



50

GT students

283

Total student enrollment



Programming Opportunities for Gifted Learners

At grades 6, 7 and 8, we offer a compacted math pathway for students who qualify. These students would receive 6th and half of 7th grade math standards in sixth grade and the other half of 7th and all of 8th grade math standards in 7th grade. 8th graders are then able to take Algebra 1 or Geometry. Students qualify based on a body of evidence and are placed appropriately. In high school, the full block schedule allows students to work through two years of math, English, Science, or other area they are advanced or identified as gifted in. Students can begin taking college courses at the PSD Future's Lab and through FRCC high school and campus select as early as 9th grade.



Gifted and Talented site coordinator:

Cynthia Erickson M.Ed | School Counselor/ CTE Specialist/ GT Coordinator
cerickso@psdschools.org 970-488-8267

Overview of the GT program at this school



Polaris's GT Program:

- Provides advanced and differentiated learning experiences to all students.
- Provides social and emotional guidance through counseling and group activities.
- Acknowledges strengths and interests and encourages students to build on them through a variety of different experiences.
- Polaris's Gifted and Talented program believes in the importance of building the academic and social/emotional needs of all students through academic expeditions, fieldwork experiences, intensives, and adventure trips.

Advanced Learning Plan process at this school



Students in grades 6-12 will write goals to be embedded into their ICAP through Xello.

Enrichment opportunities for GT students during school



- Music Electives including Modern Band, Songwriting, and Music Production.
- Differentiated Instruction in ALL classes
- Ability to take high school math courses in middle school
- Access to Futures Lab Programming beginning in 9th grade
- Access to FRCC, AIMS, and CSU Concurrent Enrollment courses beginning in 9th grade.
- College courses offered on Polaris Campus
- Intensives, fieldwork, and adventure trips

** These are offered depending on school scheduling.*

Overview of the GT program at this school



Polaris's GT Program:

- Provides advanced and differentiated learning experiences to all students.
- Provides social and emotional guidance through counseling and group activities.
- Acknowledges strengths and interests and encourages students to build on them through a variety of different experiences.
- Polaris's Gifted and Talented program believes in the importance of building the academic and social/emotional needs of all students through academic expeditions, fieldwork experiences, intensives, and adventure trips.

Advanced Learning Plan process at this school



Students in grades 6-12 will write goals to be embedded into their ICAP through Xello.

Enrichment opportunities for GT students before or after school



- Math Counts Enrichment
- Lego Robotics Enrichment
- Music "House Band" Enrichment
- Chess Club

Affective programming for GT students



The Gifted and Talented Program at Polaris recognizes GT student's affective characteristics and provides individual support through the Counseling Office, Friendship Circles in middle school classes, advisory/ crew class grades 6-12.

Grade-specific GT services



- Grades 6-12: Classroom differentiation
- Grades 6-12: Access to accelerated courses
- Grades 9-12: Futures Lab access
- Grades 9-12: FRCC, AIMS and CSU concurrent enrollment courses