



# Gifted and Talented



POUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Poudre Global Academy K-12 GT Overview



PGA is a community centered program designed to partner with families and students support and empower all learners; our Gifted and Talented Program is the same. We recognize advanced student's personal, social and academic needs using personalized and blended learning, and small class sizes. We focus on growth and achievement with differentiated and blended learning in classroom curriculum, with extracurricular opportunities and community-based experiences.

Our GT program offers two coordinators to support students: one to support K-8, and one for 9-12; both partner with families, classroom educators, and staff to create a positive learning environment offering relevant learning experiences that foster intellectual curiosity, critical and creative thinking, and social/emotional wellness.

We provide opportunities for exploration in areas of personal interest as well as challenging and rigorous personalized learning and curriculum compacting when appropriate.

PGA's GT program seeks to support whole-student learners, who can grow their gifts and talents into lifelong learning.

<https://pga.psdschools.org/academics/gifted-talented>



**25**

Average GT students

**310**

Total student enrollment



### Gifted and Talented Contacts

**Jodi Quass** | K-8 GT Coordinator, [jquass@psdschools.org](mailto:jquass@psdschools.org)

**Kate Stevens** | 9-12 GT Coordinator, [catheris@psdschools.org](mailto:catheris@psdschools.org)

## Overview of PGA's Program



PGA takes a whole-student approach in everything we do to partner with families and students. We benefit from the unique personalized and blended learning curriculum our school offers, as well as small class sizes where classroom teachers are experts in personalizing and allowing students freedom and choice. GT Coordinators partner with students and families to provide support, academic extensions, and opportunities to collaborate and connect with other GT students.

## Advanced Learning Plan process at this school



The ALP process will differ based on what grade your student is in and any other support they may be receiving. ALPs are not designed to create more work for a student to do, but offer an opportunity to go deeper into a passion area or strength, support a goal a student may already be working toward, or deepen a student's growth in an area identified. Check out [the ALP overview for more information](#).

## Programming opportunities for GT students



### **All Grade Levels**

- Integrated and supported counseling services
- Academic content and differentiation delivered by content-area teacher, with support from GT coordinators for personalization.
- Use of depth and complexity icons and strategies to deepen critical thinking and conversations
- Opportunities to synthesize, analyze, develop, defend ideas and take ownership of learning
- Opportunities to practice navigating conversations, listening, agreeing, and disagreeing in the context of academic and passion orientated work
- Integrated and supported IEP and Integrated Services
- Lunch groups, passion projects, mentoring, and field trips.
- Brain-based learning and instruction
- Small group support and connection on campus and virtually.

### **Elementary**

- Genius Hour twice each week to practice collaborating, organizing, developing, and presenting passion projects and supporting their ideas with documentation
- Pop-Up groups and workshops at all grade levels, focused on meeting student needs and student interests
- Book Clubs
- Opportunities vary from year to year based on student interest and Advanced Learning Plan goals.

### **Middle/High School**

- Talent Pool: connecting students in 9-12 with opportunities to demonstrate and grow advanced/exceptional ability into lifelong habits and behaviors. Those who may not have been identified formally as GT, but would benefit from acceleration, mentorship, and connection with other students may be invited into Talent Pool offerings based on demonstrated achievement, teacher referral, or other data that show exceptional potential or ability.
- Close-knit advisory groups, 6-12 grades.

### **High School**

- Credit pathways in 9-12 for GT and Talent Pool students to pursue independent study, passion projects, research projects, or other personal developments.
- Front Range Community College and Campus Select course offerings; both online or face to face.

Enrichment opportunities for GT students during school



**Elementary/Middle**

- GT students receive in-class differentiation, enrichment opportunities during WIN (**W**hat **I** Need) time and social/emotional learning sessions.
- Specials for all students
- Flexible grouping within the classroom to meet individual needs
- MTSS (Multi-tiered System of Support) Team is utilized to support educational needs

**High School**

- Computer science electives including App Development
- Field Trips (past examples: college and career visits, City Utilities & Water Treatment center, nature retreats, ropes course, etc)
- Exploring Engineering; Exploring Chemistry; Exploring Robotics; Exploring Technology
- Technology Electives/Enrichments (app design, 3d design;)
- Music electives including Popular Song Writing, HS Music Ensemble
- Grade level opportunities and support (ex: Senior Group, 9th Grade Group)
- Differentiated Instruction in Art

\* These are offered depending on school scheduling.

Enrichment opportunities for GT students before or after school



**Elementary/Middle**

- Running Club (grades K-8)
- Scooter Club (grades 4-7)
- Parent-led enrichment clubs
- MS Allies Club
- National Junior Honor Society
- W.E.B. Leaders (8th grade)
- Odyssey of the Mind
- Mighty Math Minds
- Spelling Bee (grades 3-8)
- Community learning opportunities

**High School**

- Gaming Club
- CHSSA [Esports for 9-12](#)
- National Junior Honor Society
- National Honor Society
- [Give Next](#)
- Ambassadors (HS students)
- Service Learning Club
- [Garden Club](#)
- HS Allies Club
- K-Club
- Math Enrichment

Students may also initiate clubs throughout the school year.

Affective programming for GT students



The Gifted and Talented Program at PGA recognizes the GT student's affective characteristics and provides individual support through the Counseling Office, the GT Program, and through grade level teacher teams. We have robust advisory classes at all levels.

The GT Program provides opportunities for students to discuss struggles and achievements in a safe environment with a trusted adult and/or other GT students with similar needs.

### All Grades

- We use community circles in all grade levels of PGA to develop belonging, regulation, and a sense of camaraderie among classes and cohorts.
- PGA prides itself on a trauma informed lens that we conduct all teaching and learning through, to best support students and meet them where they are at.
- We utilize a restorative practices approach to resolve conflicts, reflect on harm, and help students make things right in the communities they are members in.

### Elementary/Middle

- Small group counseling lessons based on student areas for growth.
- [Wellness Room](#)
- Mindfulness activities are implemented in classrooms
- SOAR Awards (Safety, Ownership, Attitude, Respect) are part of PGA's school-wide positive behavior support programming

### High School

- Brain Based Learning instruction through advisory and small support via the GT HS Groups, 1-1 executive functioning coaching with GT Coordinator
- Counseling services and support, addressing specific topics students request like burnout, perfectionism, distraction management, neurodiversity, and more.
- Wellness Center access for supporting student regulation throughout the day
- Service animal visits
- Mindfulness 5 credit hour class
- Trauma informed educator practices
- Mental health and wellness minded advisory

## Grade-specific GT services



### Elementary/Middle

- Gifted students and their families work collaboratively with the gifted site coordinator to set achievement and affective goals for individual Advanced Learning Plans. The GT coordinator will conduct a mid-year and end-of-year review with each student about progress toward the ALP goals. The classroom teacher and parents will be asked to provide input. Students will self reflect as part of the process as well.
- Families are encouraged to provide input/feedback at all stages of the ALP process. School/Home partnership is valued and nurtured as an integral part of the hybrid model
- Educators understand the depth, complexity, and individuality necessary for meaningful enrichment and do not simply create more work for GT students.
- All second-grade students are tested for cognitive aptitude ability in February.
- Parents and teachers can refer students to the PSD Gifted and Talented Identification Team.
- PGA currently serves students in third through seventh grade identified in areas of language arts, math and general intellectual ability. Other areas of identification are available, and we use the Poudre School District identification process.
- Celebration of Learning Nights at the end of each semester
- GT Site Coordinator monitors assessments for possible identification
- One on one mentoring and coaching are available with invitations for check-ins, support and connection from the GT coordinator, face to face or virtually.

**High School**

- Ninth Grade Specific GT supports and connection group
- 12th grade specific post-high school planning, graduating with options, and mentorship
  - Including the option to create ALPs blended with a student's Individualized Career and Academic Plan (ICAP)
- Ninth through twelfth grade: Access to independent study enrichment clusters (with elective credit option!) to receive mentorship, develop research projects or passion projects, and collaborate with other students in the GT program and/or Talent Pool.
- One on one mentoring and coaching are available with invitations for check-ins, support and connection from the GT coordinator, face to face or virtually.