KINARD

Core Knowledge Middle School

Dear Families in Kinard GT, August 27, 2025

Although the school year began with shortened days, planning for the Kinard Gifted and Talented (GT) program is already well underway—and moving full speed ahead—with great excitement for the many opportunities ahead in 2025–26!

Welcome to all students who are new to Kinard or newly identified as gifted! My name is Wendi Grigg, Kinard's Gifted and Talented Site Coordinator. Students, I look forward to connecting with you soon. I also invite parents and guardians to attend the Kinard GT Night in September to learn more about our supportive GT program and how I serve as both a resource and advocate for you and your child.

For students returning to Kinard GT, I'm thrilled to share that the Advanced Learning Plan (ALP) Goals will continue to be integrated into the classroom and do not require extra work outside the school day. This integration allows for intentional focus and sustainable growth with progress checks for both the academic skill(s) tied to each student's area(s) of gifted identification and the Essential Skill standard(s) they select as most meaningful for authentic development. As well, the favorite ALP Enrichments at ELO such as Book Club, Service-Learning, Tech Squad and more are booting up for the year ahead. For those that are new to Kinard GT, students can optionally participate in one of these ALP enhancements based on the student's schedule and availability. ALP Enrichments are a fun way to explore a new or growing interest with like-minded peers.

In September, students in Kinard GT will begin selecting their ALP goals by meeting in small groups with the GT Coordinator and bringing home a GT/ALP folder to keep on hand throughout the year. Parents/guardians are encouraged to review the folder with their child in September and offer guidance as needed before students submit their final goals through the online Kinard GT/ALP survey. According to guidelines from the State of Colorado and Poudre School District, your child qualifies for an Advanced Learning Plan based on their GT identification. At Kinard, ALP goals are student-driven and tailored to each child's gifted area(s) and Essential Skill needs, ensuring alignment for increasing academic skill strengths while also building workforce-ready skills and supporting social-emotional growth.

In the fall, once goals are set, students and parents/guardians can view the Advanced Learning Plan (ALP) as a PDF in the student's Advisement Notes on the Xello platform. These notes will be updated again in the spring after goal completion. The ALP serves as a written record of gifted programming and supports educational decision-making (CDE 22-20-103). For more information about ALPs and gifted education in Poudre School District (available in English and Spanish), click [here] or see the QR code below. For ALP FAQs, navigate to the PSD website > Academics > Curriculum > Gifted and Talented. For Kinard GT Program information, please use the QR code on the right to visit the Kinard GT website.

We are excited to work closely with your child this year at Kinard! If you ever have questions or need support with your child's gifted and talented experience, please don't hesitate to reach out. Your partnership is truly valued, and I'm looking forward to a fantastic year in the Kinard GT Program!

Best,
Wendi

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