

Center for Accelerated Studies (CAS)

The Center for Accelerated Studies is a fulltime gifted magnet program for students in grades 4-6 from across the district, which was created to address the unique instructional needs of academically gifted students. It serves about 80 gifted students who have demonstrated high proficiency in mathematics, science, and language arts. The gifted magnet classrooms are located in the former Grandview Elementary School building (1591 North Jordan Avenue), and operate as a satellite to Westridge Elementary. Bus transportation is provided for enrolled students that live more than 1.5 miles from CAS. This is done so children from across the city have an opportunity to participate if they are selected. Students that live within district boundaries and/or are enrolled in Provo District schools will be considered first for placement in this program.



Why Come to CAS?

Center for Accelerated Studies Information Night Presentation

Why Come to CAS?

- CAS provides the opportunity for gifted students to move beyond core curriculum, as they have demonstrated mastery of grade level curriculum.
- CAS provides unique enrichment activities that are particularly appropriate for students who learn at a more rapid pace, and desire to delve deeply into curricular topics, and work as practitioners in various fields of study.
- The flexible and more rapid pacing in the CAS classrooms meets the needs of gifted students.
- CAS has a heavy math and science curriculum focus, which is appropriate to the abilities and potential of the gifted students identified for this program.

Curriculum Features

Literacy

- Literature choices match students' abilities and interests
- Writing across all areas of the curriculum
- Book clubs
- Integrated through all subjects
- Shakespeare in 6th grade
- Latin taught through parent volunteers

Math Curriculum

- All students are tested at the beginning of the year for appropriate placement in math.
- Math courses includes 4th/5th grade, 6th/7th grade, and 7th grade honors classes.

- Our two-hour block for math allows more time for critical thinking and problem solving.

Science

- Core curriculum is taught
- More time is spent to achieve depth and complexity in each area
- Scientific method taught
- Each child participates in the Westridge Science Fair in January
- Hands-on science inquiry
- Many field trips, and guest speakers/demonstrations from local experts in various science disciplines

Technology

- Cart of 20 laptops
- 4th Grade and 5th grade (2011) EMINTS classroom of 17 computers
- Promethean Boards and projectors in each classroom Fine Arts
- CAS students participate in the Fine Arts block each Tuesday and Thursday at Westridge
- Students are bused back to CAS after classes
- Classes offered are choir, drama, orchestra, band, guitar, art, ballroom dance, yearbook (6th grade only)

Social Atmosphere

- Comfortable environment for students of high ability
- Opportunity for many friendships with intellectual and social peers
- Students respect the differences, gifts, and achievements of peers
- Students adjust well to a new school outside their neighborhood

Differences in Characteristics

- **Bright Child**
- Knows the answers
- Is interested
- Is attentive
- Has good ideas
- Works hard
- Answers the questions
- Top group
- Listens with interest
- Learns with ease
- 6-8 repetitions for mastery
- Understands ideas
- Enjoys peers
- Grasps the meaning
- Completes assignments
- Is receptive
- Copies accurately
- Enjoys school
- Absorbs information
- Technician
- Good memorizer
- Enjoys straightforward sequential presentation

- Is alert
- Is pleased with own learning

- **Gifted Learner**
- Asks the questions
- Is highly curious
- Is mentally and physically involved
- Has wild, silly ideas
- Plays around, yet tests well
- Discusses in detail, elaborates
- Beyond the group
- Shows strong feelings and opinions
- Already knows
- 1-2 repetitions for mastery
- Constructs abstractions
- Prefers adults
- Draws inferences
- Initiates projects
- Is intense
- Creates a new design
- Enjoys learning
- Manipulates information
- Inventor
- Good guesser
- Thrives on complexity
- Is keenly observant
- Is highly self critical

Bright Child Gifted Learning, by Janice Szabos Challenge, 1989, issue 34 p. 4

