

**Advanced Learning Opportunities**  
**West Woodland Elementary**  
**February 2008**

Advanced learners flourish in the West Woodland community because all our teachers hold high expectations with a rigorous curriculum. Through open-ended assignments, differentiated instruction, flexible grouping, intra- and cross grade level partnerships, challenging materials and many enrichment opportunities, West Woodland Elementary School provides a rich academic environment designed to challenge all students to work to their potential. We strive to create educational success stories for every child.

Advanced learners are first through fifth grade students who have been tested and qualified for Seattle Schools Spectrum or APP programs and are expected to be performing at least one grade above their current grade level expectations. They remain qualified for these higher level designations by participating in our ALO program and receiving the ALO report card. Success in our program along with strong teacher recommendations, allows these students to enter available spaces in Spectrum and APP classes, at anytime, including middle school programs. We serve our advanced learners within the classroom and include other students capable of above grade level work.

Throughout West Woodland, the teachers are committed to creating engaging opportunities across the curriculum:

**Reading:** Reading groups offer multiple levels of texts, often 2-3 years beyond the grade level. Additionally, literature projects requiring higher levels of thinking, vocabulary and comprehension skills are assigned regularly.

**Writing:** Writer's Workshop is stressed in every classroom, offering every child open-ended opportunity to write at a level that challenges them. They are encouraged to use levels of voice, word choice, sentence structure and principles of writing that reflect their higher intellect. These culminate in published works showcasing the student's work.

**Math:** The Everyday Math curriculum includes daily lessons that challenge the ALO students to expand their mathematical thinking beyond their grade level. Concepts are practiced at a higher level through increasing numbers, extending the questioning and adapting projects to the daily assignments.

**Social Studies/Science:** Story Path, history projects, simulations and science fair projects all offer opportunities for our ALO students to extend their learning.

**Homework:** Weekly homework includes open ended and challenging activities for all advanced learners

**Other:** Art and music docent lessons, Spanish and computer class are all offered during the school day. After school enrichment includes an award winning chess club, two choirs, and other classes such as art, Legomation and drama.

**Home:** Our parents help set the standard for their child. Parents support their child in doing homework at an appropriate standard, which would include any challenges provided by the teacher. Parents communicate with their child's teacher about their expectations and classroom work.

Teachers understand that to reach every student, instruction must be differentiated. Through close observation and assessment, teachers strive to know each child as an individual. Understanding students' strengths and weaknesses enables teachers to support and challenge them appropriately, nourishing their learning and fostering intrinsic motivation. By having flexible groups and open ended projects, ALO students receive their challenge within the regular program and leave West Woodland well prepared for their next academic endeavor.