

**Certification Report
Advanced Learning
Posted January 2004**

School Aki Kurose Middle School

Program Spectrum

The *Spectrum* program at Aki Kurose Middle School Academy is a thriving institution of sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade students. Spectrum-eligible students are clustered together and their schedules are blocked according to grade level, allowing for academic opportunities within a community of intellectual peers in language arts, social studies, science, and math.

Classes offer a rigorous and accelerated curriculum. Curricular and instructional practices include project-based learning, incorporation of strategies to support multiple intelligences, recognition and planning for multiple entry points into projects based on student readiness and skill levels, portfolios, group and individual work opportunities, and implementation of National Urban Alliance (NUA) literacy strategies. Leadership is encouraged within the *Spectrum* classroom, allowing students to develop a sense of justice and moral judgment, as well as idealism. These students are seen as leaders of the school, so much so that the majority of our student government association consists of *Spectrum* students.

Strengths/Commendations

Staff dedicated to meeting the needs of advanced learners
Staff “tuned in” to issue of rigor and accelerated standards
Staff developing skills in differentiation and flexible grouping techniques

Areas to be Strengthened

Building robust number of students in the program
Enhancing understanding of rigor and integration of rigor into all aspects of the curriculum
Enhanced articulation of the curriculum for students in the Spectrum program