

Certification Report Advanced Learning Posted January 2004

School Broadview-Thomson

Program Spectrum

Broadview-Thomas is one of the largest elementary schools in Seattle. The school provides a wide range of programs for its diverse student population. General education students, English Language Learners, preschool students, students with IEPs, and advanced learners all thrive in their supportive learning environment. Teachers and students collaborate across programs and grade levels. The school transformation plan sets clear goals for the development of communication skills, and teachers collaboratively revise and assess student writing in teams. In every classroom and the computer lab, students have access to the Internet and multiple opportunities to develop their technology skills. Teachers use cutting-edge technology in their instruction through the use of ELMO cameras, digital projectors, and computers.

Broadview-Thomson staff believe that all students have gifts and strengths and that as educators they need to provide opportunities for children to excel and reach their full potential. *Spectrum* classes at Broadview-Thomson Elementary are offered in first through fifth grades. Spectrum students represent the rich diversity of the student population and reflect varied backgrounds, perspectives, and cultures of our learning community.

The *Spectrum* program at Broadview-Thomson provides accelerated learners with an opportunity to be challenged academically and intellectually in a supportive learning environment while also meeting their social and emotional needs. Students are expected to perform at one grade level above district standards in reading and math. Science, social studies, writing, and communication are infused with instructional strategies and project-based learning experiences appropriate to advanced learners. Curriculum compacting allows students to move beyond material they have mastered and focus on new and more complex curriculum while developing independence. Differentiated instruction is provided in flexible groupings that allows students to work independently or in collaborative groups with a variety of peers. Independent projects allow students to build on their personal interests, satisfy curiosity, develop planning and research skills, work with complex and abstract ideas, and manage long-term and in-depth work on topics of interest. Spectrum-eligible students are integrated with regular and special needs students in a variety of school settings including: computer lab, library, physical education, music, choir, Audubon, WASL preparation, art instruction, field trips, 5th grade camp, chess club, recess, lunch, assemblies, and PTA sponsored events.

Parents contribute to the program and the whole school community through volunteering in classrooms, PTA activities, PTSA Board, Leadership Team, and school-wide events.

Strengths/Commendations

Robust student numbers, especially in intermediate grades, to support classroom of district-identified Spectrum students

High-energy staff with long history of serving advanced learners

Clear dedication to the program by staff and administration

Multi-age blended classrooms in primary and looping at the intermediate grades

Areas to be Strengthened

Greater articulation of accelerated standards and understanding the continuum

Greater articulation of rigor as it presents itself in curricula and on-going student tasks