

Coe Elementary ALO Program Description

2007-2008 School Year

Coe School has a number of their kids test into Spectrum and APP each year yet the majority of those students remained at Coe. In order to meet the needs of the Advanced Learners, the Coe staff has committed to adopting an ALO program that reinforces their current differentiated teaching model.

For the first year, the Coe ALO model will be implemented in most classrooms in a minimum of one language arts and one math unit. The curriculum for these units will be developed in tiered assignments in order to support differential learning through flexible class grouping.

In addition to the focus on in-class differentiated learning, Coe will offer two programs aimed at advanced learners:

Math Olympiad: Students are able to participate in this standards-based program after demonstrating above-standard ability in computation skills and a desire for acceleration and challenge in math problem solving, computation, and collaboration. The program will meet after school once a week and will culminate in a cluster math competition run by the SSIA.

Cougar Explorers: The Cougar Explorers program is a project and research based curriculum with an emphasis on reading, writing, research and rigor. This advanced learning opportunity will create a peer group for students and provide them with an opportunity to continue to stretch academically. This program is created and led by Coe's Reading Specialist and will be a pilot program in 2006-2007.

The staff at Coe has also identified the following programs to further develop as part of the ALO program:

- Provide differential learning opportunities in all areas; focusing on math and reading.
- Take advantage of existing programs and resources such as our reading and math specialists, in addition to Coe's Math Club, Chess Club, Debate Club, World Language and Read Around the Library programs. Teachers will work with the specialists to ensure students are performing at the appropriate level.
- Create grade-wide materials. Develop a crate of meaningful, enriching projects and explorations that students work on when they've completed their work.
- Offer cross-grade groups opportunities to meet the needs of kids who are reading / doing math at a higher level; per classroom discretion and coordination.
- Recruit math volunteers to support students working above grade level; typically in the 4th and 5th grades.

Coe students who participate in the ALO program will be identified by criteria defined by the staff and district testing. Selection will be based on evidence: Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA), math assessment, class evidence and work completion. Coe has adopted a recommendation requirements list to ensure there is data behind the teacher recommendation that is consistent across the whole school and is also a consistent tool for assessment. Involvement in the ALO program will be flexible; a student's involvement may depend on the area of focus or changes in a student's performance. Assessment of the ALO program will occur in conjunction with each trimester reporting period.

The Coe staff will continue to take professional development courses on addressing the needs of Advanced Learners. Over the next year, the staff will receive training in ALO curriculum development and using the ALO report card from the Seattle School District's Advance Learning staff. The Coe staff is also committing some of their professional development to differential learning and to visiting other ALO programs. As part of certification, the staff will continuously assess the ALO program. In addition, as the Seattle School System adopts a new math curriculum, the staff will identify the best ways to take adopt this curriculum for Advanced Learners.