Laurelhurst Elementary Advanced Learning Opportunity School
Enrichment & Challenge Program
2007-2008 School Year

Laurelhurst has been certified as an Advanced Learning Opportunity School based on the many meaningful learning experiences offered by all of the school staff, which stimulate creativity and critical thinking while providing a firm foundation in the basics. We have high expectations for all our students and know that each will be challenged by the rigor and depth of our curricula. With a 4-year average of 91.25% of Laurelhurst students passing 4th Grade WASL Reading and 85.7% passing 4th Grade WASL Math, challenging our students is a necessity.

In addition to the many enrichment opportunities provided in each homeroom class, the PTA currently funds the Enrichment and Challenge Program. The goal of the program is to serve the needs of high-performing students, nurture and inspire students performing above grade level standards through rigorous and engaging activities, and balance the needs of the individual students with the needs of the classroom and school communities. Students are selected for participation based on district advanced learning eligibility, teacher recommendation and classroom assessments.

Although the Enrichment and Challenge Program provides direct instructional services to students in grades K – 5, it takes on different forms at each grade level. Grades K-2 work on a rotating tri-weekly schedule to provide enrichment opportunities in either language arts or mathematics. Students in grades 3 – 5 participate in the program on a weekly schedule. At grade 3 and 4, Math Groups are created to challenge every student at different levels of learning. At the fifth grade level, the program uses both a Project Based Learning Approach and Math Clubs to extend students learning. Interdisciplinary projects require different skills, talents and levels of thinking and intelligences while Math Clubs provide opportunities such as Math Olympiads for students to stretch their minds.

Some of the other many strategies and opportunities that the Laurelhurst staff provide to give advanced learners complex, ambiguous, provocative, and/or personally or emotionally challenging context to grapple with include:

Integrated & Multidisciplinary Learning-Example: A Story Path Unit pulls together reading, writing, social studies, communication and art utilizing a local story teller, Artist in Residence, and a technology rich presentation process for the community.

Rigorous Curricula - Including TERC, Problem Solver, Junior Great Books, Story Path, Interact, and the Jason Project

Tiered Assignments - To support and challenge students at their individual learning levels.

Higher Level Questioning - Used by the staff and students, across the content areas. Students are encouraged to answer and create higher-level q2estions including evaluation, prediction, and inferential questions. Students are also encouraged to create extension lessons to present to their classmates.

Flexible Grouping - The classroom teachers and specialists work together to find creative models for working with students in different, small groups in math, reading and special projects. These groups are fluid and can change based on interests or abilities.

• **Technology Integration -** Teachers work closely with both our Technology and Librarian Specialists to truly integrate technology into the curricula. Computers are more than just word processors and encyclopedias at Laurelhurst. They are problem solvers, research stations, presentation tools, art “palettes” and more.