

Certification Report Advanced Learning Posted January 2005

School Leschi Elementary

Program Spectrum

Leschi Elementary School has offered a well-respected and outstanding academic program to advanced learners for over twenty years. We have fantastic parent support. There is a great diversity in the student population of Spectrum students within our program - students who are often under-represented in advanced learning courses are participating and meeting the rigorous expectations set by the District and supported in Leschi's Spectrum program. We are committed to serving multi-grade groups of students through looping and flexible grouping, allowing half of the class to repeat with a given Spectrum teacher the following year. Flexible pacing of curriculum is achieved by assessing and determining appropriate content, including accelerated content, for meeting students' needs. Compacted curriculum is also used to support accelerated curricular needs.

Leschi's curriculum is based in interdisciplinary, constructivist philosophy allowing students to discover for themselves the interconnections of academic subjects and their applications to life. Students must seek and evaluate the information they acquire related to problems they are given to solve. Activities that involve inquiry learning include problem framing, data gathering, divergent thinking or idea generation, evaluating alternatives, and applying a solution to the problem, as well as activities based on problem-based learning and exploratory learning.

The Leschi Spectrum Program's instructional philosophy is based on three components: one third basic skill development, one-third deepening and extension of curriculum, and one third acceleration of curriculum. Our curriculum is based on the guiding principal of the Spectrum Program of mastery of grade level expectations in all subject areas and moving beyond grade level expectations in reading and mathematics. Spectrum students are expected to explore more complex content in greater depth. Assignments tend to be more open-ended, allowing students more choice and opportunity to pursue a wider range of inquiry.

Strengths/Commendations

High-energy staff

Historical and on-going dedication to the program by staff and administration

Areas to be Strengthened

Review of class configuration, especially at the primary grades (currently all district-identified students, grades 1-3)

Building Student Population

Strengthened articulation of accelerated standards and understanding of the continuum

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

