

**Certification Report
Advanced Learning
Posted January 2005**

School North Beach Elementary

Program Spectrum

The Spectrum program at North Beach Elementary School offers opportunities for advanced learners in grades one through five. District-identified Spectrum students are assigned to a designated teacher at each grade level and clustered together in ability groupings that are flexible and sometimes across assigned grade levels. The North Beach staff regularly collaborates and plans to meet the individual needs of every student.

Spectrum students participate with regular education students in our arts enrichment activities in music, art, photography, Spanish and journalism. These programs are enhanced through the process of producing finished works such as musical theater, art and photography shows and a school newspaper.

North Beach also offers a range of before and after school enrichment activities. Chorus and Drama clubs perform at school and evening events. Chess club stages weekly games and participates in tournaments as well as. Camp Fire and Art Wizards are also popular after school activities. Kid Links before and after school program provide nurturing care and activities for our children.

An active parent and community support network sustains many of the enhanced academic and enrichment opportunities available at North Beach. They also provide role models for students who want to become involved in community improvement programs. For example, the North Beach Student Council provides opportunities for self-governance and leadership. Student representatives plan and sponsor events such as the food drive, dances and family nights. Students are also given opportunities to learn self-sufficiency, responsibility and community building by partnering with younger children and with students in our Blended-K and Autism programs

At North Beach, Spectrum teachers are committed to providing a rigorous curriculum that involves the integration of content across subject areas, teaching of complex thinking skills, high expectations for in-depth study, and acceleration. Frequent assessment of student understanding allows for flexible grouping strategies and highly individualized learning paths.

Strengths/Commendations

Flexibility and collaboration among staff
Spiraling curriculum
Vertical alignment of curriculum
Individualized learning plans
Professional development of Spectrum staff

Areas to Strengthen

Developing a common instructional language

Finding more time for collaboration

Enhancing understanding of rigor vs. acceleration