

**Certification Report
Advanced Learning
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School West Woodland Elementary School **Program** Advanced Learning Opportunities

Advanced learners flourish at the West Woodland community because teachers support high expectations with a rigorous curriculum. Through open-ended assignments, flexible grouping, intra- and cross-grade level partnerships, differentiated instruction, challenging materials, and enrichment opportunities, West Woodland Elementary School provides a rich academic environment designed to challenge all students to work to their potential.

Advanced learners work toward more complex interpretations of assignments. Students at all grade levels are given open-ended tasks that provide advanced learners the opportunity to deepen their learning experiences. Beginning in kindergarten, students write their own stories allowing advanced learners to add complexity to their tales. Thematic units and research opportunities abound across grade levels. Students are encouraged and expected to delve deeply, organize their information with thinking maps, and create a variety of final products. Assessments draw on multiple intelligences and range from written projects to multimedia presentations to dramatic shows.

Flexible grouping is the norm at West Woodland. Depending on the topic and the needs of the students, grouping is fluid. Advanced Learners have the opportunity to work with students at or near their level as well as mixed ability groups. Another way to provide rigorous curriculum is with cross grade-level partnerships.

Teachers at West Woodland understand that to reach every student, instruction must be differentiated. Through close observation and assessment, teachers strive to know each child as an individual. Understanding students' strengths and weaknesses enables teachers to support and challenge them appropriately. When students show understanding, they are prompted to improve their work, expand their knowledge, and articulate their understanding to others. A variety of supports are provided as students move to increase their learning.

Enrichment opportunities exist both within the school day and before and after school. During the school day students have opportunities to learn Spanish. They also explore the arts with a multi-arts teacher and an art docent program in which volunteers, trained through the Frye Art Museum, combine art history with hands-on art opportunities. In addition, some classes have artist in residence opportunities, French language, and instrumental music. Before and after school enrichment programs are well attended. There are two choirs, a highly regarded computer program, an award winning chess club, and the math Olympiad. In addition, art classes are sometimes offered. The rich variety of experiences, the use of engaging and challenging materials, coupled with high expectations and individualized learning, allows all learners a chance to work to their potential.