

**Certification Report
Advanced Learning
Posted January 2004**

School Denny Middle School

Program Spectrum

Denny Middle School is committed to the belief that all children can and must learn, and that the diversity of students' backgrounds is an asset, which enriches the educational experience, offered at Denny. Denny offers a comprehensive program for Spectrum-eligible students. Spectrum-eligible students are clustered throughout the day for instruction in math, language arts, social studies, and science, attending classes with other Spectrum-eligible peers and peers identified by teachers as ready for participation in the Spectrum rigorous and accelerated curriculum.

Students participate in blocked classes during the sixth grade in Language Arts/Social Studies and Math/Science, allowing for intensive and on-going interaction with the same peers and teachers in these key areas of instruction. Block classes are also offered at the seventh grade level in Language Arts/Social Studies, with all classes at the eighth grade level being unblocked in order to allow for greater flexibility in student schedules. An exploratory wheel of electives is also available to Spectrum-eligible students to broaden their skills, knowledge, and talents.

Spectrum-eligible students must demonstrate their willingness to work independently and at an accelerated pace. They are expected to make a consistently strong effort to succeed by maintaining excellent attendance, demonstrating strong organizational skills, and utilizing good study habits. Support is provided to ensure that these skills are developed, but it is expected that these skills will be maintained.

Strengths/Commendations

High-energy, dedicated staff

Clear understanding and articulation of rigor across the curriculum

Understanding of accelerated standards

Clearly defined program/schedule for Spectrum students

Use of an 8th-grade project and portfolios to support student reflection on learning and to track student performance over time

Emphasis on open-ended items, critical thinking and independent research

Areas to be Strengthened

Building robust number of students in the program

Enhancing curriculum within grades and providing greater articulation among grade levels

Continuing to enhance the curriculum to reflect accelerated standards and rigor