

**Certification Report
Advanced Learning
Posted January 2004**

School Washington Middle School

Program Spectrum

The Spectrum program at WMS provides a differentiated and challenging curriculum for Spectrum-eligible students. Students are expected to master grade level benchmarks and to work at benchmarks beyond their current grade level. WMS Spectrum-eligible students are expected to have the willingness and ability to work independently, to work in cooperative learning groups, and to complete intensive units of study successfully.

During sixth and seventh grade, students participate in Spectrum blocked Language Arts/Social Studies classes; during eighth grade, these Spectrum classes are held “back-to-back” on a student’s schedule. Spectrum students attend math classes with students of like abilities that may include APP students, other Spectrum students, as well as general education students. Spectrum students attend Science classes with Spectrum and general education students, with enrichment learning provided on an individual level. Spectrum students attend World Languages, Music, Art, Computer, and Physical Education classes with other WMS students. Because of building-wide scheduling, Spectrum students are usually in the same classes, however. Teachers of these classes have adapted their teaching strategies and curriculum to accommodate the needs of Spectrum students.

Teachers teaching in the Spectrum program many times are teaching classes for APP, general education students, and working with students who are English Language Learners and students with special education needs, and have “whole school” duties in addition to their work in the Spectrum program.

Strengths/Commendations

Staff dedicated to working with this student population
Robust student numbers
Awareness of accelerated standards and rigor
Clear program offerings and curricula

Areas to be Strengthened

Enhanced articulation of how accelerated standards are central to program curricula
Articulation among teachers at Washington for curricular alignment
Deeper understanding and articulation of rigor and its presence in the curriculum