



Lesher Middle School, an IB World School



School's Gifted & Talented Website	http://schoolweb.psdschools.org/lesher/gifted.html
# of students in GT Program (October Count 2011)	GT students make up 24% of Lesher IB Middle School's student body.
Overview of Gifted Program	Lesher's Gifted and Talented program adheres to the IB/MYP fundamental concepts of holistic education, intercultural awareness and communication with the express intent to meet the diversified cognitive, emotional and social needs of the gifted learner. By blending the IB/MYP with the Renzulli Enrichment Model and the Autonomous Learner Model, Lesher has created a unique and supportive learning environment that nurtures the natural talents, strengths and interests of advanced learners. To this end, we have developed a variety of components that help foster effective and personalized learning. We emphatically believe the development of the whole child, community, service, creativity, leadership, staff support, and autonomous life-long learning are essential for the well-being and development of the gifted learner.
Gifted & Talented Site Coordinator	Karen Hammann (khammann@psdschools.org) I have many years experience as an educator, advocate and coordinator of gifted learners.
Structure (Grouping of Gifted Learners)	Lesher provides GT learners an opportunity to collaborate with their peers on a daily basis through flexible and cluster grouping. In addition, gifted students are grouped through GT English, advanced Math, GT Advisory ELO and a variety of enrichment opportunities.
Enrichment Opportunities for gifted learners during school – grades 6,7,8 Some of these opportunities are offered on a rotating basis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inquiry: mentors/in-depth study/21st Century Skills/presentation • Science Olympiad/Science Fair/field trips, mentors, speakers, presentations • Brain Bowl Competition • Math Counts/AMC 8 • IB/MYP Student Leadership Summit • Lesher Yearbook Leadership Team/NoCo Yearbook Workshop Field Trip • WEB/Community, Action and Service Learning • Fitness for Life/Yoga/Iron Vikings • GT leadership field trip opportunities • Creative Writing: writing and poetry competitions/mentoring/Viking Scribes • IB/MYP Virtual Community/Global Community/Tele-mentorships • GT-TV/International Media Festival/ Video Making & Editing/KLIB • French/German/Spanish/Latin • Junior Great Books/Book Clubs • Lesher Literary Magazine • GT grade level ELOs: Advisory/ALPs • 8th grade Musical Theater • Technology: 3D Video Game Programming WEB Design, Web 2.0 Portfolio • Forensics & Debate/Global Issues & Events • Lego Robotics/Engineering Technology and Future City Competition/CAD • Outdoor Adventure Education • Creating Leadership in Teens • Art: Kid Kaps, YAM exhibition, Scholastic Competition • Philosophy for Teens

Enrichment Opportunities for gifted learners after school grades 6,7,8

- Catalina Island, No Barriers service learning trips
- Chess Club/Forensics/Debate
- Drama Club, Musical Theater
- National Junior Honor Society
- CU Girls in Engineering
- College/Career Planning field trips and discussion groups
- Music: Harmonic Minors, Jazz Ensemble, Chamber Music Ensembles
- Lego Robotics/Math Counts/TSA
- STEM Summer Institute
- Clubs: Environmental, Photography
- World/Dual Language international summer trips
- Science Olympiad: mentors, field trips
- River Watch team

Social/Emotional programming

GT Coordinator and Staff Counselor partner for GT grade level discussion groups. We focus on a variety of topics such as perfectionism, confidence, social relationships, college and future planning (encompassing the intellectual, personal, emotional and social person). We strive to develop a foundation of the concepts of giftedness, talent, creativity and the development of potential. In addition, we have a GT Advisory ELO which provides opportunities for: discussions on individual development, leadership training, creative and critical thinking, college and career involvement, and organizational and study skills.

Content Extensions

Teachers of gifted students use the William and Mary curriculum to accelerate, enrich and extend district standards in language arts. GT students have the opportunity for accelerated math. GT students are encouraged to explore enrichment opportunities designed to address their needs. Service learning activities are essential and required. Development of the humanitarian spirit is an integral part of the IB/MYP vision and complements the multifaceted GT learner.

Differentiation for gifted in the regular classroom

Differentiation in the classroom includes, but is not limited to: tiered lessons, curriculum compacting, challenge, depth, complexity, independent studies, and student choice of opportunities. The IB Learner Profile, Approaches to Learning Skills and the Areas of Interaction all serve as overarching guides to enrich and extend the curriculum. They lend depth and complexity which advanced learners require.

Acceleration Opportunities

Gifted math students in grades 6, 7, and 8 have the opportunity to accelerate to the next grade-level in math. All gifted students will work with advanced concepts in language arts through the William and Mary curriculum. Honors courses offer independent research and in-depth studies which allow gifted learners to learn at the depth, complexity and pace they require. Above-level texts and materials are provided when appropriate.