

The Challenge Center

The Challenge Center is part of the Sioux Falls School District's Gifted Program and is designed to offer an accelerated/enriched curriculum for gifted children in a self-contained full day program in grades two through five. Teachers differentiate the curriculum in content, process and products.

To provide

Content Differentiation, teachers:

- Pre-test students to determine correct level of difficulty
- Compact curriculum to eliminate concepts previously mastered
- Relate content to broad-based issues, themes and/or problems
- Integrate content into other curriculum areas
- Provide for a variety of learning styles
- Allow for in-depth study of given topics

To provide for

Process Differentiation, teachers:

- Develop students' independent or self-directed study skills
- Develop students' complex, abstract, and/ or higher level thinking skills
- Focus on open-ended questions and tasks
- Integrate basic skills into basic themes

To provide

Product Differentiation, teachers design assignments that ask students to:

- Analyze existing ideas and produce new ideas
- Use new techniques, materials and forms
- Develop self understanding

- Show evidence based upon criteria of creating products that match expectations
- Experience and choose format options, including oral, visual, written and kinesthetic presentations

Students are exposed to a second language:

The four basic skills of listening, comprehension, speaking, reading and writing are introduced. Some emphasis is placed on pronunciation, vocabulary acquisition and basic grammatical concepts so the students can function in communicative situations.



Special Opportunities:

Students may choose to participate in academic competitions and contests such as Knowledge Master Open, Geography Bee and Math Masters.

Students are involved in three interims throughout the school year. Each one has a focus, the students choose from assorted interest opportunities for their participation. At least one interim is built around the concept of Discover Classes and one dedicated to community service.

Parent Involvement:

The Challenge Center welcomes parent involvement both in the classrooms and all school events. The success of many of the students' special opportunities rely on parent involvement.



Students at the Challenge Center are expected to:

- ❖ Demonstrate an intense desire to be challenged
- ❖ Master concepts at a faster pace and in greater depth
- ❖ Generate higher level thinking and use problem solving skills
- ❖ Complete regular daily homework/ assignments
- ❖ Develop time management and study skills

Assessment:

The Challenge Center uses the District policy for grading and evaluating student growth. Methods used consist of:

1. Checklists to determine mastery
2. Portfolios to document growth and provide evidence of applied skills
3. Standardized testing and state assessments
4. District assessments in reading and math

Identification and Placement:

Students who have qualified for gifted services can apply for admission to the Challenge Center. A matrix is then developed with minimum standards based upon:

- Achievement test scores for reading and math
- Gifted qualifying scores
- Gifted teacher evaluation

**Mission and Goals Mission****Statement:**

Our mission is to challenge the high ability students we serve to become well-rounded independent learners.

Goals:

To achieve our mission the Challenge Center supports the following goals.

1. Implement a flexible curriculum that maximizes each student's highest academic potential.
2. Develop higher level thinking skills through enrichment and acceleration activities.
3. Provide opportunities for student growth in the essential life skills necessary to succeed in our society.

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Learning Without Limits...



The Sioux Falls School District
Gifted Program

Challenge Center Information Brochure

Location:

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