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Friday, May 17, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are very excited to announce to our community that, last night, our CSC recommended that Lowry move forward with a plan to move the Highly Gifted and Talented Magnet Program currently housed at Carson Elementary here to Lowry.

This change will not begin until the 2018-19 school year, and it will be a slow rollout. We will begin phasing in the program with one grade level of 1st grade students and add one classroom of students each year until 2022. Students who are currently in the HGT magnet program at Carson would remain at Carson to finish their HGT program and elementary education there. Carson will slowly phase out their program as we start to phase ours in.

An HGT program generally accepts students who are identified as Highly Gifted and Talented. On the next page, we have attached the parameters and information for Carson's current HGT magnet program. Ours will likely be similar, and we will work to ensure that it meets the needs of our Lowry students and community, as well as the needs of incoming HGT magnet students.

We will have many opportunities next year during the school year to discuss the changes and plan for embedding the HGT magnet program at Lowry. Again, we are very excited to start planning for this and look forward to future discussions and feedback as we collaborate to meet the needs of all Lowry students.

Thank you for your continued support of Lowry Elementary,

Dr. Ben Cooper
Principal

Ms. Adrienne Nault
Assistant Principal



CARSON ELEMENTARY

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Highly Gifted and Talented Magnet Program

Vision

The Denver Public Schools Gifted and Talented Department will lead the nation in providing equitable, high impact gifted programming.

Mission

We strive to ensure that gifted and talented students are engaged, rigorously challenged and supported to reach their full emotional, intellectual, and creative potential. By equipping students to become successful, critical, compassionate, and collaborative individuals, we are preparing them to become leaders and citizens of the 21st century.

Services

Denver Public Schools provides services to gifted/high potential students and their families. The Gifted and Talented Department oversees gifted and highly gifted identification in the district. Gifted identification begins at the school level with the GT teacher and ends with a district level identification team review process. In addition, we support and monitor each schools' gifted programming in order to support best practice for gifted learners.

The department also assesses and qualifies students for the Advanced Kindergarten magnet program. This program is not a gifted program. Students who qualify for Advanced Kindergarten are not identified as gifted/talented.

What is Giftedness?

In the Denver Public Schools, "gifted and talented children" are students whose demonstrated abilities, talents and/or potential for accomplishment are so exceptional or developmentally advanced that they require special provisions to meet their educational needs. These students perform, or show the potential of performing, at remarkably high levels in general intellectual ability, specific academic aptitude or specific talent aptitude when compared with others of their age and experience. Gifted and talented children are present in all student groups, regardless of gender, disability, English language proficiency, economic status, ethnic or cultural background.

Carson Gifted Magnet Program

Mission Statement and Purpose

The Denver Public Schools Gifted and Talented Magnet Program provides an educational option for students in grades 1 through 8 to apply for center-based programming at one of the Magnet Program sites, such as Carson. This educational option is provided to address the extreme needs of magnet eligible students that may exhibit exceptional intellectual ability as well unique social and emotional needs. Students benefit from the support provided by a peer group with similar interests and abilities. This program is designed for the top one to two percent of students demonstrating the most extreme needs which cannot be met in a traditional classroom. This program is not specifically designed for students with abilities in the arts, leadership or creativity, although gifted students may also have these strengths.