

### **KUSD Accelerated Learning/Honors Program**

The KUSD Board adopted BP 6172 (a) on November 11, 2001: The Governing Board believes that all students deserve an education that challenges them to meet their full potential. The Board shall provide gifted and talented students opportunities for learning commensurate with their particular abilities and talents. Programs for gifted and talented students may include competitive academic teams which meet outside the regular school day and special day classes, part time groupings and cluster groupings which shall be planned and organized as an integrated, differentiated learning experience within the regular school day. KUSD shall ensure the full participation of eligible students regardless of their ethnic, cultural, linguistic or economic background. The program at Kerman Unified provides services to meet the challenging needs of the Accelerated/Honors student. The goal of this program is to provide a rigorous curriculum that will motivate students to be the very best; to provide an environment in which students will be challenged and in which they feel free to think creatively; and to ensure that Accelerated/Honors students meet the district's highest academic standards and that assessments of the students are analyzed for program change.

### **Goldenrod Elementary School K-6**

Within classrooms, teachers support individual student learning needs for capable students through differentiated instruction. Honors students in the third and fourth grade will participate in various enrichment activities. During the regular school day, the curriculum will be differentiated to develop critical thinking skills by using the concepts of depth and complexity. Honors students in the fifth and sixth grade will be placed in a self-contained Honors classroom based upon criterion established using testing data, teacher recommendations, and an alternative identification questionnaire. The curriculum will be differentiated to develop critical thinking skills by using the concepts of depth and complexity. The classroom will provide a supportive environment whereby students can expand their knowledge base. Leadership skill development will be an additional focus for these students.

### **Kerman-Floyd Elementary School K-6**

Within classrooms, teachers support individual student learning needs for capable students through differentiated instruction. Honors students in the third and fourth grade will participate in various enrichment activities. Honors students in third and fourth grade may also participate in an afterschool program for enrichment activities. They will be exposed to research and writing projects related to the year's theme where they will go into more depth and complexity than is offered during the regular classroom setting. They will be introduced to community members working in related fields to the year's theme and will also go on one field trip per year. The resulting project of the afterschool program is a book written by students that is presented at the end of the year celebration with parents in attendance. During the regular school day, third and fourth grade Honors students are deployed in Language Arts for enrichment activities. Honors students in the fifth and sixth grade will be placed in a self-contained Honors classroom based upon criterion established using testing data, teacher recommendations, and an alternative identification questionnaire. The curriculum will be presented with added depth and complexity. The classroom will provide a supportive environment whereby students can expand their knowledge base as well as feel risk-free to experience learning. Leadership skill development will be an additional focus for these students. An annual awards ceremony takes place in the spring with parents and all current and former Honors students invited to participate.

### **Liberty Elementary School K-6**

Within classrooms, teachers support individual student learning needs for capable students through differentiated instruction. Honors students in the third and fourth grade will participate in various enrichment activities. During the regular school day, the curriculum will be differentiated to develop critical thinking skills by using the concepts of depth and complexity. Honors students in the fifth and sixth grade will be placed in a self-contained Honors classroom based upon criterion established using testing data, teacher recommendations, and an alternative identification questionnaire. The curriculum will be differentiated to

develop critical thinking skills by using the concepts of depth and complexity. The classroom will provide a supportive environment whereby students can expand their knowledge base. Leadership skill development will be an additional focus for these students.

### **Sun Empire Elementary School K-6**

Within classrooms, teachers support individual student learning needs for capable students through differentiated instruction. Honors students in the third and fourth grade will participate in various enrichment activities. During the regular school day, the curriculum will be differentiated to develop critical thinking skills by using the concepts of depth and complexity. Honors students in the fifth and sixth grade will be placed in a self-contained Honors classroom based upon criterion established using testing data, teacher recommendations, and an alternative identification questionnaire. The curriculum will be differentiated to develop critical thinking skills by using the concepts of depth and complexity. The classroom will provide a supportive environment whereby students can expand their knowledge base. Leadership skill development will be an additional focus for these students. Honors students in third and fourth grade may also participate in an afterschool program for enrichment activities called Super Readers Club. This after school club for strong readers received the 2002 Golden Bell Award from California School Boards Association for being an outstanding program. During club meetings, students meet in small groups with a teacher to discuss their reading and develop skills in literary analysis. Capable students who are English learners are provided additional support. Monthly themes are used for book selection and culminating activities.

### Kerman Middle School Grades 7 and 8

Within classrooms, teachers support individual student learning needs for capable students through differentiated instruction. At Kerman Middle School Honors courses are offered for accelerated students in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Core Academic classes and some Visual and Performing Arts courses. During the regular school year, honor classes are offered for English 7, English 8, World History, U.S. History, Life Science, Physical Science, Intro to Algebra, and Algebra. An advanced class, Advanced Band, is offered to those students who are gifted in the visual and performing arts. Identified Accelerated/Honors students in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade may also participate in an after school program designed to challenge students above and beyond the regular school day curriculum. This experience will include the use of visual and computer technology, the application of factual current events information in relation to school curriculum, news reporting, and upkeep of a WEB page. GATE funds are used for the teacher salary as well as materials for use in the program.

### Kerman High School Grades 9-12

Within classrooms, teachers support individual student learning needs for capable students through differentiated instruction. At the high school level, part-time grouping is used for accelerated students. In the English 9, English 10, and World History Honors classes, students cover the California Standards in greater depth and complexity than the regular English 9, English 10, and World History classes. When Honors students enter the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades, they begin the intensive AP classes in several content areas. The curriculum for these classes is at a college level. Students are challenged to prepare for the AP exams and are pushed to perform at the high levels of academics that they need. Students are also given the opportunity to attend courses at CSU Fresno and/or local Community Colleges. Interested students can participate in AP classes online if the high school does not offer the class. Summer programs such as: Stanford Medical Program, UCSF Bio-Medical Research Program, and CSUF Engineering class are available for students that qualify and show interest.

### Program Selection Criteria

At the Elementary School Site's, formal identification of Accelerated/Honors students begins in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. The District uses multiple measures for placement into the Accelerated/Honors Program. Students are selected based upon criterion established using testing data, teacher recommendations, and an alternative identification questionnaire. Information for Reading, Language Arts, and Mathematics comes from Standards Based Report Cards (K-6), California State Standards Tests (2-12), and grades (7-12). Based upon the recommendations of the District's Accelerated Advisory Committee, students with any CST Scores below Advanced in both Language Arts and Math, would not be included in the program, without the approval of the Site Administration.

At Kerman Middle School Honors courses are offered for accelerated students in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade core academic classes. Students are selected based upon criterion established using testing data, teacher recommendations, and an alternative identification questionnaire.

At Kerman High School numerous Honors and Advanced Placement classes are offered for accelerated students in the 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade and enrollment is open. Students are selected based upon criterion established using testing data, teacher recommendations, and an alternative identification questionnaire. Counselors guide Accelerated/Honors students to enroll in AP and Honors courses.



*Showing Our Pride*

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*Kerman Unified School District*

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