West Des Moines Community Schools

K-12 Extended Learning Program

Vision, Mission, and Beliefs

Vision:

The Extended Learning Program will provide opportunities for gifted and talented students to become independent, lifelong learners.

Mission:

The West Des Moines Community School District recognizes that every student possesses unique abilities, talents and needs which require an appropriately differentiated program. The Extended Learning Program will facilitate, provide, and support programming for gifted and talented students. This programming includes opportunities and options that differ from and/or complement the regular curriculum in breadth, depth, pace, or in the kind of experience offered.

Beliefs:

* We believe gifted learners need differentiated academic experiences as well as opportunities to explore their passions and interests in order to develop their talents, promote self-direction and self-reflection, and to encourage life-long learning.
* We believe that providing a supportive environment which allows and encourages advanced and gifted students to realize their potential is a responsibility shared among school personnel, family and community.
* We believe gifted students need opportunities to collaborate and learn with their intellectual peers.
* We believe gifted and talented students have specific social and emotional needs, which should be addressed through programming.
* We believe that student identification for the Extended Learning Program must be an ongoing and systematic process.