



July 2, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I wanted to acknowledge your student's recent GATE identification and to inform you of the services at Crocker/Riverside that meet the needs of our many, many gifted students.

The primary source of services will occur in your student's classroom, where you should expect to see our school's Vision of Instruction fully implemented. It reads:

At Crocker/Riverside Elementary, students feel empowered to collaborate productively and enthusiastically while engaging in meaningful tasks facilitated by the teacher in a respectful community of learners.

I would recommend taking the opportunity to attend Back to School Night early next school year for a presentation by your student's teacher on how she/he meets the needs of gifted students in light of the above vision. This presentation will include a discussion of instruction, in class tasks and enrichment, and expectations of students. Common Core curriculum and the state standards, which are designed to address the unique needs of all students, will likely also be part of this discussion. As needed, you may also want to have a private discussion with your student's teacher.

There are a variety of other enrichment opportunities at Crocker/Riverside that serve the needs of all our students, including our gifted students. Many of these also provide opportunities for parents/guardians to get involved at school. These include field trips, docent programs, assemblies, and a wide variety of before and after school programs sponsored mainly by outside vendors.

For years, Crocker/Riverside has offered a high quality educational program for all students, and we will continue to do so. In recent years, our teaching staff received professional development trainings by the District's GATE office. Our ongoing efforts will include professional development offerings for staff and a deepened implementation of the Common Core State Standards and our social/emotional learning curriculum. Furthermore, the newly adopted language arts curriculum has

embedded within it, as does our math curriculum, activities and tasks that address gifted and talented student needs.

I believe that Crocker/Riverside, as a school striving to serve the needs of our neighborhood students and community, is in a unique position to be a model for other schools in our District and beyond. This includes how we help all our students, including your gifted student. C/R has the highest percentage of students identified as gifted of any neighborhood school in the District. Our teaching staff recognize this and excel at meeting these needs. Their efforts not only serve our students well while at C/R, it serves them well in middle and high school and beyond.

In addition to the above, I would encourage you to visit other sites where GATE classes are offered, although I recognize this is impossible this year due to the late date of being notified that your student qualifies for GATE services. In my experience, these GATE classes offered at other sites look very similar to C/R classrooms, where students' interests are peaked, and they are engaged in their educational pursuits. Over the past five years, less than a handful of students have decided to enroll in another school due to GATE, with one returning after a year and another desiring to return but was unable to do so due to our space limitations.

This raises one other point that I want to make sure you are aware of—once a student leaves C/R and enrolls at another site through the GATE application process, that new site becomes their home school and there are no return rights to C/R. Due to our high enrollment and high demand, returning can be extremely difficult to do.

If you have any questions or would like to further discuss your student's needs, please do not hesitate to contact me upon my return in early August 2018.

Thank you again for your support of Crocker/Riverside and for giving us the opportunity to educate and enrich your student.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "W. Daniel McCord".

Daniel McCord
Principal