

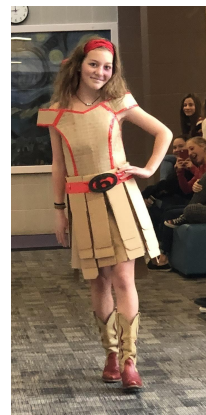
Middle School Gifted Programming Berry Creek Middle School



Berry Creek Middle School is a top pick for 6th-8th gifted students in Eagle County Schools and has produced BMHS valedictorians for the past 6 of 7 years (and projected for 2022 school year as well). This is due to programming at BCMS created to benefit all students.

Cluster Grouping in ELA classes

Students at BCMS are cluster grouped into ELA classes based on their strengths and needs.



Dual Language support and bilingual pathway

Students have the option to push their Spanish Literacy with dual language social studies and Spanish classes. BCMS also supports the bilingual pathway award.

Honors' paths

Students have the opportunity to participate in honors work in both ELA and Social Studies during their 8th grade year. This provides students with level 4 work, which is completed both inside and outside of the classroom. This work dives deeper into the content and prepares students for AP level course load in high school.

Advanced math pathway

Students with advanced academic achievement in math are able to enroll in the advanced math pathway at BCMS, which includes the following courses:

- 6th grade advanced math (compacted 6th/7th grade math)
- 7th grade advanced math (compacted 7th/8th grade math)
- 8th grade algebra 1 (9th grade math)

Placement in this pathway is fluid with students moving in and out of the pathway based on their educational math needs. If a student successfully completes algebra 1 in 8th grade, they move onto geometry as 9th grader, which provides the opportunity for students to take two college level math courses in high school.



Differentiation

Marjorie Oyler, BCMS GT Specialist, supports teachers with advanced differentiation, as well as co-teaches in Algebra and exploratory teachers.

Acceleration

Both single subject and whole grade acceleration are supported (with qualifying student data) at BCMS. All advanced math classes take place at the same time during the schedule, which supports the placement of students who qualify for single subject acceleration throughout the year without any impact on their schedule. In addition, when a student has qualified for single subject acceleration, they attend BMHS for their accelerated class in 8th grade with a minimum impact on their class schedule at BCMS.

EDGE

EDGE groups will take place weekly during student's exploratory classes. Gifted students will be pulled from exploratory class to participate; students are pulled both in large and small groups based on their social emotional needs. In addition, students create and work on their ICAPS (Individual Career and Academic Plan) and ALPS (advanced learning plans) during this time. EDGE groups are part of gifted services for middle school students.

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Exploratory class

Students learn to utilize Global Readiness Skills such as Critical Thinking, Adaptability, Communication, Curiosity, Analyzing Information, Entrepreneurialism and Collaboration. Our vision is having an exploratory workspace model, in which the teacher is a facilitator and advisor. This year students will explore various topics based on their grade level, as well as academic competitions.

Exploratory Learning is based on four approaches:

- Learners can and should take control of their own learning;
- Knowledge is rich and multidimensional;
- Learners approach the learning task in very diverse ways; and
- Learning comes naturally and it does not have to be forced or contrived.

The Gifted Department of ECS prepares advanced students for academic success by enrolling students into academic competitions. According to the Davidson Institute “Academic competitions play an important part in learning for highly gifted students. They are **designed to inspire and enlighten, and can create enthusiasm and entice students to try their hardest, helping to maximize their abilities**”. We offer the following competitions to [BCMS middle school students](#) who are enrolled in Exploratory class:

- Scholastic Art/writing (BCMS National recognition)
- National History Day (BCMS top 5 state placement)
- Bookworm writing (BCMS student winners)
- Project Funway (BCMS competition placement)
- Battle of the Books (English and Spanish book clubs)
- Science Olympiad (BCMS individual 2nd place state- team state invitation in past three competitions)
- Model UN (BCMS regional recognition)
- Math Counts (BCMS individual placement top 10% of Colorado)



GT Specialist- Marjorie Oyler

I am currently the instructional coach for gifted education and have been with Eagle County Schools since 2010 and with BCMS since 2016. I entered into the field of education in 2006 after working as a marine biologist in Alaska for three years. In my spare time I like to read, raft, ski, ride bicycles, camp, hike and play board games with my husband and six year-old son. I absolutely love the [teachers](#), [administration](#) and [students](#) of Berry Creek!

Please don't forget to visit the Gifted Education page on the Eagle County Schools website. In addition, you can find newsletters and updates on what is going on in EDGE groups on my website.

District website: <http://www.eagleschools.net/parents/gifted-education>

My website: <http://ecssecondarygt.weebly.com/>

Vail Daily: <https://www.vaildaily.com/news/eagle-valley/eagle-county-students-practice-diplomacy-first-hand-at-model-un/>

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. I look forward to working with your child.

Thank you,

Marjorie Oyler, M.Ed

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BCMS, BMHS, RCHS-east