



HILLCREST
Middle School

2021-22 Continuum of Gifted Services

Gifted Specialist: kimberly.christensen@dvusd.org

Engaging Students & Supporting Their Potential

HMS Offers –

- Gifted Grouping
- Flexible Ability Grouping & Differentiation
- Middle School Athletics
- Pentathlon
- National Junior Honor Society
- Student Council
- Lego First Robotics Teams
- STEM Classes
- Career Action Labs I & II
- Band, Choir, & Theater Arts
- High School Algebra and Spanish (credit transferable to any high school)

Gifted Placement –

Gifted Testing and Scores: Students are assessed in three areas (Verbal, Quantitative, & Nonverbal) using the CogAT assessment. Hillcrest Middle School (HMS) offers gifted services for students who qualify in one or more areas. Placement testing can be scheduled three times a year based on teacher and parent recommendation. Students may also qualify based on other state approved gifted identification assessments. Students may only be tested once per calendar year.

Gifted Program Details –

Gifted Grouping: All gifted students (those scoring at or above 90% in one or more areas) are clustered together for the majority of the day.

Math: Students in grade 8 who tested above grade level on school placement exams and meet requirements on our placement rubric are clustered together and placed in the High School Algebra math class. These students are placed in a class with transferable credit.

Spanish: Students in grade 8 who tested above grade level on school exams and meet the rest of the requirements on our placement rubric are clustered together and placed in the High School Spanish class. These students are placed in a class with transferable credit.

In the Classrooms –

Differentiation: The teacher, after getting to know his/her students, groups them for activities based on each individual student's academic needs and/or areas of interest. The teachers utilize specialized areas in their classrooms to allow those students to expand their learning in a more personal and interactive space. It allows students to guide their own inquiry based learning.