



## West Creek Academy

### Advanced Learning Process for all Scholars

### ALPS

*“Imagination and creativity envision a pathway yet to be discovered; motivation and inspiration yearn to open the pathway’s door; knowledge and experience realize how to use the key.”*

*Anonymous*

When children are challenged in creative and academically-motivating ways, they accomplish and achieve more. The **A**dvanced **L**earning **P**rocess for all **S**cholars (**ALPS**) at West Creek Academy provides an opportunity for students to receive academic challenges. Students engage in intellectual pursuits beyond the “ceiling” set by traditional classroom curriculum.

ALPS fosters academic achievement and development of scholarly behavior in numerous ways:

- Encouraging students to challenge themselves
- Promoting scholarly traits
- Providing engaging learning opportunities in pursuit of academic triumphs
- Supporting students during studies within individualized areas of interest
- Inspiring intellectual growth by employing higher-level thinking skills
- Implementing lessons that are relevant, rigorous, and respectful
- Creating student products that reflect individual abilities and talents

## Differentiated Instruction

<b>Depth</b> Challenging students to pursue the core curriculum with a deeper and more elaborate understanding	<b>Complexity</b> Finding multiple solutions and perspectives to make connections and relationships to the core curriculum
<b>Novelty</b> Engaging in studies that develop new concepts and reflect on original ideas	<b>Acceleration</b> Increasing the rate or pace of instruction thus enabling students to acquire additional knowledge

Students learn the **Dimensions of Depth and Complexity\*** and apply them in the core curriculum in Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades.

Students continue to utilize the **Dimensions of Depth and Complexity\*** and learn **Content Imperatives\*** as well as independent research/study skills in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grades.

**Kindergarten:** *Details, Patterns, Language of the Discipline\**

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade:** *Rules, Relate over Time, Multiple Perspectives, Unanswered Questions\**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** *Big Ideas, Across Disciplines, Trends, Ethics\**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:** *Origin, Parallel, Contributions\**

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade:** *Convergence, Paradox\**

*Students ponder individual interests/goals, learn basic research skills, and apply Depth and Complexity\* and Content Imperatives\* to the core curriculum.*

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** *Students initiate independent study/research projects while incorporating Depth & Complexity and Content Imperatives.\**

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** *Students continue independent research, create authentic products, and pursue making connections to real-world experts in their chosen field of study.*

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## Universal Themes

ALPS utilizes **Universal Themes** to challenge students to make connections across disciplinary studies.

The following themes will be explored:

- Patterns
- Order vs. Chaos
- Relationships
- Change
- Systems
- Power
- Structure
- Conflict



## TEAM Pathway

The TEAM Pathway program is a twenty-week learning opportunity that offers 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade scholars an in-depth focus in the areas of Technology, Engineering, Art, and Music (TEAM). Lego Robotics, Broadcast Media, Chorus, Leadership, Piano, Harp, Fine Arts, and Performing Arts are some of the pathway courses. These courses may change to meet the needs of our student body.



## Gateway to the World

Students learn foreign language on a daily basis. Each morning students practice Korean and/or Chinese vocabulary and conversational phrases.



## Technology

West Creek Academy is equipped with state-of-the-art technology.

All 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade students have internet-ready laptop computers. Each laptop has built-in software with video, Power Point, and word processing capabilities.

## West Creek Teachers

West Creek Academy teachers are the foundation of this successful advanced learning process. All teachers in grades K-6 have been trained through the Saugus Union GATE Certification Program, and many have additional experience, training, and expertise. All training has been aligned to state standards for meeting the needs of the gifted learner and is in accordance with guidelines from California Association for the Gifted.

The West Creek teaching staff is dedicated to excellence in education and devoted to maximizing each student's potential:

- Teachers implement engaging lessons and instructional strategies that promote appropriate relevance, rigor, and respectful relationships.
- Teachers collaborate as a team to ensure daily lessons contain key components of differentiated instruction.
- Teachers serve as model instructors to colleagues in Gifted and Talented Education strategies.
- Teachers continually seek professional growth and consistently strive to infuse innovative instructional techniques within the classroom.

### Differentiated Lessons...

- Accept and nurture individual scholar's aptitude for academic growth
- Reveal students' potential by integrating open-ended and tiered instructional practices
- Allow for student choice and for scholars to set individual learning goals
- Encourage ALL scholars to strive to do their best by extending & accelerating the core curriculum



## Expectations

- Students meet and exceed district and state standards.
- Students approach daily work with scholarly behavior.
- Students utilize the Dimensions of Depth and Complexity\* to enhance understanding of core curriculum.
- Students learn to apply Content Imperatives\* in their daily work.
- Students complete required research projects, both at home and in school.
- Parents support and assist their child(ren) in accomplishing the academic challenges.



## WEST CREEK ACADEMY

*"Gateway to the World"*

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## WEST CREEK ACADEMY

*Differentiating Instruction to  
Inspire Creativity and  
Promote Academic Triumphs*

## Advanced Learning Process for all Scholars

### (ALPS)

*Break Through the Ceiling*



*Saugus Union School District*

