



An individualized education helping children be exceptional, accelerated and creative

The mission of Broomfield Academy is to provide an individualized education helping children be exceptional, accelerated and creative.

Individualized or differentiated education is a big “buzz word” in our educational system today. In most school settings, individual student learning plans (ISLP’s) are typically created only for students formally identified as gifted, in need of specialized services or to address a specific disability. At Broomfield Academy, teachers create individualized learning plans for each and every child. This is done to assure that there is a plan in place to develop every aspect of a child’s learning needs. In our classrooms, there are generally several student groupings or levels of work for each subject, even in a class as small as 10 students. During a typical day, students may work on an independent project or on small-group lessons, while at other times they may be engaged in a whole-class discussion related to a particular lesson for that day (e.g. history, science). Following their ISLP, each student may also have other individualized content or topical options including individual reading and research projects. Teachers work with each student using a variety of methods to demonstrate learning through projects such as oral presentations, poems, essays, dioramas, or poster boards.

At Broomfield Academy, we believe our unique blend of academic and social goals helps our students to become truly **exceptional**. All students are engaged in both academic and social projects throughout the school year. Martin Luther King Jr. stated “***Intelligence plus character- that is the true goal of education.***” Students develop strong character through monthly core virtue programming, character awards and certificates, and service learning projects. By helping in the school, as well as in the local and global community, students learn that their actions can be used for the betterment of all.

Teachers at Broomfield Academy also work to create an **accelerated** learning environment. Utilizing a variety of ‘best practice’ methods, the school works to create an environment where students are held to higher standards in their academic work. At Broomfield Academy class sizes are small, and students typically achieve at an average academic standard of one grade level above in core academic subjects. Many students work beyond this level and in certain subjects may be working two or more grade levels above. Through specific and challenging, yet realistic personal academic goals, Broomfield Academy students are academically able to achieve far more than in a more traditional school setting.

Creativity is often cited as “the missing ingredient” in school systems today. In more traditional settings, students may spend much of their class time using convergent thinking skills – to come up with the ‘correct answer.’ There are times when this type of thinking is important. However, it often stops some very critical and necessary divergent thinking from occurring. In this age of widely available information, children need to learn how to become critical thinkers. And, they need to be able to choose between a variety of ‘right choices’ or ‘correct answers’. ‘Outside of the box’ thinking is necessary in today’s world, especially in scientific and artistic fields of study. In addition to creative problem solving in their core academic subjects, our students enjoy enrichment courses related to drama, world music, world languages and cultures, dance and public speaking. Exposing them to a variety of enrichment

areas allows their individual creativity to shine. Through after-school programs and elective options, Broomfield Academy students can devote even more time to their areas of passion.

Broomfield Academy's philosophical base is aligned with many 'best practice' principles in the field of education, including the work of Dr. Joseph Renzulli. The Colorado Department of Education researched schools that outperformed their peers in closing the achievement gaps for all groups (Colorado Legacy Foundation, 2008). The promising practices and strategies of these schools included setting a culture of high expectations and accountability for students, using data to drive instruction, individual support for struggling students, active engagement of teachers in leadership, planning, and professional development opportunities, commitment to core academics (but not at the expense of the arts and humanities), small learning communities, and flexible resources to meet student needs (Colorado Legacy Foundation, p. 9, 2008). Dr. Joseph Renzulli has stated the three basic traits of successful and outstanding individuals include an above-average general ability, a high level of commitment and motivation, and creativity. Further, he developed a School-wide Enrichment Model (Renzulli, 1977; Renzulli & Reis, 1985, 1997) that is used with academically gifted and talented students as well as with other students who desire academic rigor and developing their particular strengths and talents, and those of the greater group. With our small and individualized classrooms, one can easily observe the strong focus on both enrichment and core courses, as well as on providing opportunity for all students to continue their own academic development.

It is through our mission, to provide an individualized education helping children be exceptional, accelerated and creative, that Broomfield Academy helps develop outstanding students, both academically and socially. A strong focus on learning, on creativity and on individualization allows for students to excel, and to succeed.

We are proud of our mission and take it very seriously. Broomfield Academy believes in developing lifelong learners by helping them discover their talents, providing advanced enrichment experiences, and providing advanced follow-up opportunities based on their strengths and interests.

Broomfield Academy is a nationally accredited high quality independent elementary and middle school for children ages 3–14. Enrollment is currently open for full-day kindergarten, full or part-time academic preschool, elementary school (grades 1-4) and middle school (grades 5-8). The school offers a variety of educational and fun summer programs, including an academic preschool, a kindergarten prep class, an elementary prep class and intermediate prep class and a summer enrichment camp.

In all of its programs, there is a strong focus on learning. The school focuses on academic excellence through the development and implementation of individual student learning plans for each student and a well-rounded and advanced curriculum to help children reach their fullest potential. In addition to a very strong core academic program, the school offers specialty courses to all students in world language (Mandarin Chinese and Spanish), world music, art, technology and physical education, including swimming.

Broomfield Academy maintains a focus on character development that includes a "core virtue of the month" program, along with significant community service and charitable involvement.

Broomfield Academy also offers a before- and after-school program for working parents with programs throughout its five-acre campus. For more information, visit <http://www.broomfieldacademy.com>, e-mail principal@broomfieldacademy.com or call the school at (303) 469-6449.