

# CENTER FOR ACCELERATED STUDIES (CAS)



## SUNSET VIEW ELEMENTARY

1520 West 600 South, Provo

The vision of Sunset View is to partner with families in creating an environment where students experience success and take ownership of their learning.

A message from Principal Chilcoat:

Sunset View Family,

My desire is for your students to experience success and find joy in learning. The teachers and staff at Sunset View have created a safe and friendly environment where students can explore, discover, and learn each day. We want to partner and collaborate with you so we can best meet your child's needs.

I look forward to getting to know each of you.

Best wishes,

Chris Chilcoat

## WHAT IS CAS?

The Center for Accelerated Studies is a full-time gifted magnet program for students in grades 4-6 from across the district, which was created to address the unique instructional needs of students with high academic ability and/or potential. It serves about 180 students who have demonstrated high proficiency in mathematics, science, and language arts.

CAS provides the opportunity for students to move beyond the core curriculum, as they have demonstrated mastery of grade-level curriculum. Unique enrichment activities are provided that are particularly appropriate for students who learn at a more rapid pace, desire to delve deeply into curricular topics, and work as practitioners in various fields of study. The flexible and more rapid pacing in the CAS classrooms meets the needs of accelerated students. The CAS students become a close-knit group, as they have opportunities for many friendships with intellectual and social peers. The students learn to respect the differences, gifts, and achievements of peers.

## WHO BENEFITS FROM CAS?

Students who enjoy being challenged and learning at an accelerated pace often excelling CAS classes. Sometimes, high performing students who feel socially awkward in school have developed social skills and peer relationships not seen before. Here is one parent's report about her child's experience in CAS which is typical of many CAS parent responses:

*(CAS) has captured the interest of my child and increased her love of learning. I love that my daughter's confidence and self-esteem have improved. She is exemplifying the "growth mindset." The main reason I wanted her in CAS is because of the content of the academics that would be offered. So many good things have come from CAS.*

# MEET THE TEACHERS

---



DEBORAH RAYMOND  
4TH GRADE

I have spent most of my life teaching something. I love music and have taught both piano and voice lessons for many years. I love gardening and I'm thrilled that my yard is about to burst with over 1000 spring bulbs. I LOVE my family! Wherever they are is my favorite place to be! My professional teaching experience includes time as a corporate trainer, several years teaching religious and moral principles to teenagers, and 12 years in public education. This is my third year teaching in the CAS program. I love this focus because, over the years, I have seen many students with exceptional abilities who just needed that "something more" to really thrive! When I walk into my classroom each day, I believe I'm working with the next generation of world leaders and solution finders!



NORMA METZ  
5TH GRADE

I love family, biking, and gardening. My husband and I enjoy time spent with our 3 daughters and son, 13 grandchildren which includes two sets of twins, and my 100-year-old father who lives with us. I have endorsements in Early Childhood Education, English-Language Learners, and eMINTS (technology and inquiry based instruction), JHAT (Jordan History Academy of Teachers), and currently completing my Gifted and Talented Endorsement. Every day I smile when I see the synergy of talented students take flight. In fifth-grade we integrate literacy with U.S. history, which is one of my passions. I've taught over 30 years and never get tired of being a catalyst for change in my students' lives. I'm always striving to make learning relevant, collaborative, and challenging which peaks students' interest and creativity. This is where the magic begins, when I can help students believe in themselves and discover how capable they truly are. In my Harry Potter classroom, we embrace Albus Dumbledore's quote, "It is our choices that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities."



MELINDA MORRIS  
6TH GRADE

I have been teaching in Provo for 24 years. I have a Master's degree in curriculum and instruction, along with endorsements in technology and English language learning. I consider myself a lifelong learner, and am currently working on more endorsements in my quest to become the best teacher I can be for the students I'm lucky enough to teach. I have three amazing daughters and one grandson. My absolute favorite teaching experience by far has been in the CAS program! Each and every day is a delight as these students have an unmatched bond and mutual respect for one another. There is something magical about a class of students who love to learn, have amazing talents and impressive work ethics!

# ACCELERATED INSTRUCTION



## CURRICULUM

- Students in the CAS program will be taught to meet, and exceed, grade level standards.
- In mathematics, accelerated instruction will be offered. Instruction will be compacted to allow students to complete Math 7 in sixth grade.
- In other subjects, such as English Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science, instruction will help students meet grade level standards and aspects of higher grades.

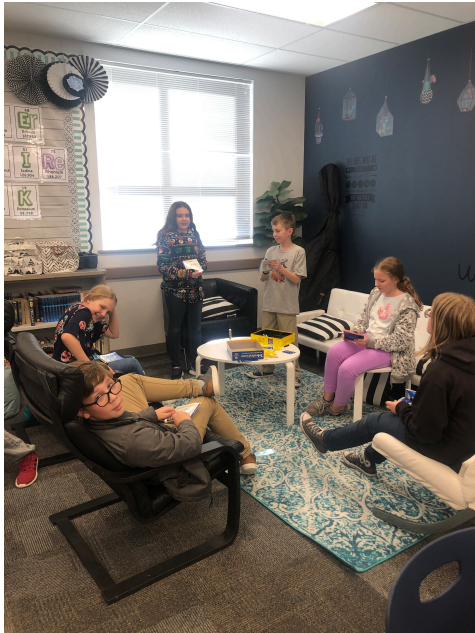
## NOTES FROM THE TEACHERS

- *CAS students can read higher-level books, so we read books that non-CAS students might not read. We finish everything more quickly so can spend more time learning science and social studies. We also have time to do some passion projects like Genius Hour.*
- *Our in-class learning is supplemented with cooking, experiments, field trips, technology skills, acting, dancing, art, and in depth analysis of literature in all its forms. I work hard to provide students with authentic opportunities for learning through discovery.*
- *While my classroom takes full advantage of technology, I also ensure that students have time in the day using paper and pencil, clay, crayons and their own bodies to experience life beyond a screen.*
- *Students in my classroom enjoy a variety of learning opportunities. We enjoy projects, design thinking, STEM fairs, guest speakers, engaging discussions, cooperative learning, and great literature!*
- *I've found that CAS students are incredibly kind and thoughtful. They teach each other and lift each other, and it amazes me everyday!*





# ASK OUR STUDENTS



## WHAT DO YOU THINK OF BEING IN CAS?

- *I'm having fun because I'm finally learning things I don't already know!*
  - *Being pushed is hard, but I like the challenge!*
  - *I like that I'm understanding how everything connects to real life and the world.*
  - *CAS feels like a real class. My other classes were too easy.*
- 
- *I love how CAS has changed me. I've grown. Before, I already knew everything they were teaching me. I couldn't learn, couldn't struggle, couldn't grow. In CAS, I'm able to learn, have fun, struggle, and even teach and instruct myself. I love CAS.*
  - *The best thing about CAS is that you learn at an awesome pace, and the teachers are absolutely AMAZING!*
  - *CAS lets me be able to work at my own speed, and not have to wait for others because they are all at the same level as me!*
  - *CAS lets me embrace the meaning of difficult, if you give up easily ... it will not be easy, however, if you want to become a hard worker, or are a hard worker who is bored of easy stuff, this is for you.*
  - *The best thing about CAS is that it is not easy like normal school, you have to actually try, plus depending on your attitude, it could be super fun doing hard things and the things you do there will probably be fun.*
  - *I love how we learn at a perfect speed, and there are great teachers. It is difficult sometimes, but it is always worth it in the end*
  - *I love how other kids in CAS appreciate my skills more because they have them to.*

## FLASHMOB



Watch a 6th grade CAS class  
FLASHMOB their teacher!

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## PARENTS WONDER...

- **Is CAS a pull-out program?**

No, CAS places students in an accelerated classroom for the entire school day.

- **How are students selected for CAS?**

Provo City School District strives to maximize fairness and diversity in identification for accelerated placement. A key strategy utilized is the casting of a broad net in initial screening for talent. All 3rd grade students took part in the CogAT assessment earlier this year for the purpose of identifying those students who would benefit from the accelerated nature of the CAS program.

- **What if my child is placed on the waiting list?**

Students on the waiting list are ranked according to the results of the CogAT exam. As space in the CAS program becomes available, parents will be notified.

- **Can my child receive other accelerated services in our regular, boundary school?**

Yes. Every school has opportunities for accelerated students to learn at high levels. Contact your school's principal to discuss the options for your child.

- **Does the district bus students to CAS sites?**

Unfortunately, no. The state does not fund transportation services for parent choice programs such as CAS and Dual Language Immersion. In some cases, parents have coordinated carpools to CAS sites.

- **If I have a child in CAS, can my other children attend the school, as well?**

Although entrance into the CAS program is merit based, boundary exceptions can be granted to parents who want additional children to attend regular school at the same location. As in other school choice instances, parents need to apply for this boundary exception to the Student Services department at the Provo City School District offices (280 West 940 North).

