

Clayton Magnet-AAP Colorado Buffalo's Update



Welcome Letter 2023-2024

Brace yourselves because we proudly stand as the fearsome Colorado Buffalo Team! We couldn't be more thrilled and honored to be your child's guides through this incredible journey. This upcoming year promises to be a rollercoaster of knowledge and fun as we embark on a quest to learn, grow, and conquer new challenges together alongside our students and their fantastic families.

As a member of this spirited herd, students will be traversing through core classes alongside fellow bright minds enrolled in our Magnet-AAP program. This unique setup allows us to tailor our teaching and offer a more challenging, thrilling, and fast-paced curriculum.

Of course, with great adventures comes great responsibility. But fear not! As Buffaloes, we're strong and resilient. Students should expect homework each night, with an emphasis on English Language Arts and Mathematics – but should not exceed 45-90 minutes. Details about the ins and outs of our team's policies and procedures will be provided during the first week of school.

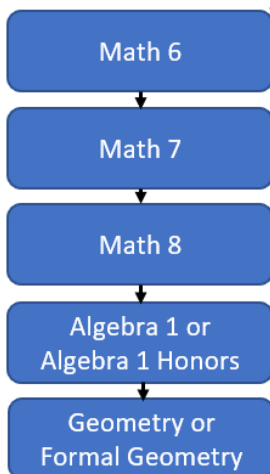
So, welcome aboard, dear students and families and read along to find out more while you anxiously wait for the first day of school! The Colorado Buffaloes are all about having a blast while charging full-speed ahead on the path of knowledge and excellence. We're here to inspire, support, and cheer you on every step of the way. Let's make this year one for the history books!

Schedules

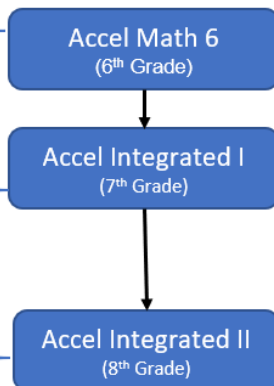
Students will have core classes (English Language Arts, Social Studies, Math, and Science) with other students accepted into our Magnet-AAP program to allow for differentiation and an increase in depth and rigor of the middle school curriculum. Students should expect homework each night, mostly from English Language Arts and Mathematics. In Math and Science, the curriculum is also accelerated and covers some high school curriculum as well.

Math:

Typical Pathway

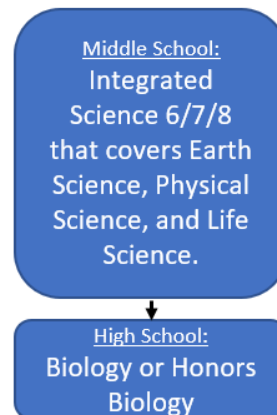


GATE Magnet Pathway

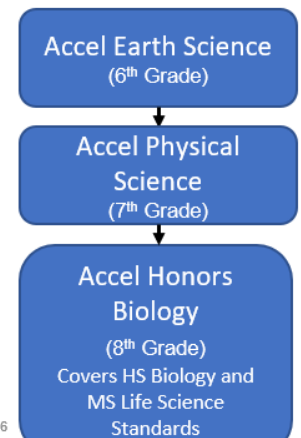


Science:

Typical Pathway



GATE Magnet Pathway



Support Class:

We have one support class this year that you may see on student schedules. These classes are designed to help students succeed and thrive in this program.

- **Accelerated Advanced Skills (AAS):** This class is a support class offered to all Magnet students. The intent of this class is to help students develop stronger executive functioning skills to succeed in the Magnet program and beyond. Students will participate in a variety of activities designed to help them develop organization, metacognition, and learning strategies that will support their advanced learning. *This class is mandatory for every new student in the program. Returning students may enroll by request or teacher recommendation.*

Advisory:

Clayton Middle School has changed their bell schedule this year, and we are optimistic with the change! The specifics can be found on the Clayton Website under Our School Information. With this change, they have renamed our morning class to Advisory. Students will report to Advisory after the bell rings on the first day of school.

Enrichment:

Students have Enrichment/Intervention time at the end of the day on Thursdays and Fridays. This class is designed to help all students be successful during school. Since we as a GATE Magnet team already offer this support during our AAS class, Magnet students will be participating in Explore & Innovations class.

- **Explore & Innovations:** This Project Based Learning course will give students the opportunity to complete large and meaningful projects. These projects will answer complex questions to solve a real-world problem, provide a service to our community, or find creativity in performance-style investigations. As a result, students develop deep content knowledge and critical thinking skills. 21st Century skills such as collaboration, creativity, and communication are embedded throughout. Project Based Learning unleashes contagious, creative energy among students and teachers. Don't worry if you took this class previously with Mrs. Martinez – we will be completing different projects this upcoming school year.
- **Note:** There are a few elective classes that are only offered during this Enrichment time. An example is Leadership or Jazz Band. If your student is enrolled in these classes, then they will not be in our Explore & Innovations class.

Schedule Changes:

Our counselors are working around the clock to get everyone's schedule as perfect as they can, but with the complexities of our program, there can be mistakes. Rest assured, we have time dedicated the first week of school to identify students that need changes in their schedules and counselors are ready to make those changes.

Teacher Welcome

We have included brief introductions of your core teachers below. It is our hope that in getting to know us, you find your transition to the 2023-2024 school year a little easier.

Sharon Cabangon (7th/8th Mathematics) scabangon@washoeschools.net



Hello wonderful Clayton parents and students. I am extremely excited to continue with the Clayton GT team for my eighth year of teaching. I knew at the age of six years old that I wanted to be a teacher. My first and second grade teachers were a major reason for this desire. I realized in middle school that I had a knack for mathematics and I had some amazing middle school and high school math teachers that helped me to develop a love for this subject. I look back on those years as a time of challenge and growth. I became the second in my family to graduate from a four-year university exactly 55 years after my grandfather. I received my Bachelor of Science in

Mathematics Education from the University of Nevada, Reno in 2015.

My teaching career started at Swope Middle School as the GT math teacher for two years. I then had the opportunity to work at Wooster High School which helped to solidify my desire to continue my work with middle school students. In these past eight years I have taught Accel Math 6, Integrated I and II, Algebra I, Geometry, Formal Geometry, Algebra II and Algebra II Honors.

When I am not fulfilling my duties as an educator, I am home with my husband, Mark, of almost 18 years and our four children; Adam (14), Claire (13), Ethan (11), and Gwen (almost 2). We added our first pup to the family four years ago, a Brittany named Hunter Oliver.

Leah Martinez (7th/8th Science) leah.martinez@washoeschools.net



Greetings! I feel incredibly fortunate to be a part of this amazing group, working alongside these incredible students, supportive parents, and dedicated teachers. This will be my 6th year teaching science here at Clayton as part of the Magnet program.

I'm a native Nevadan, born and raised in the vibrant city of Sparks. My academic journey led me to earn a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Nevada, Reno, and later, a Masters of Arts in Secondary Science Education.

As a little more about me, I am happily married to an electrical lineman and together, we have an adorable Labrador, a collection of thriving plants, and a lively, almost 3-year-old boy who keeps us on our toes! In my free time, I find joy in hiking, swimming, camping, gardening, and the simple pleasure of napping in hammocks. One of my greatest joys is exploring the wonders of the world, especially the beauty of the US National Parks. I also play French Horn for the TMCC Concert Winds Band.

I can hardly contain my excitement for the upcoming school year! Science has always been my true calling, and I'm eager to help students make sense of the world through critical questioning and scientific inquiry. I understand that science can seem overwhelming at times, but my goal is to ignite your natural curiosity and make the subject enjoyable for each and every one of you. Together, we'll embark on a journey of discovery, and I hope you'll find even more delight in science than I do. Let's make this an unforgettable year of learning and growth!

Stacie Tiernay (English Language Arts) stiernay@washoeschools.net



Hello! I am excited to be continuing with the Clayton GT team this year! I cannot wait to get started working with the students, staff, and families at Clayton Middle School.

I moved to Reno to attend college at the University of Nevada where I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Computer Information Systems and Accounting. My Master's degree is in Education, and I have an ELL (English Language Learners) endorsement.

My teaching career began 18 years ago at Mamie Towles as a 5/6 grade teacher. Since that time, my career has taken me across the district teaching at the elementary and middle school levels. I have worked with every grade kindergarten through 8th.

I have lived in Northern Nevada since 1993. I love this area with all there is to do! When I'm not spending time with my family and friends, I am usually out on the trails with my dogs either hiking, running, or mountain biking. I also love to camp, backpack, and kayak.

I am looking forward to this school year and cannot wait to meet all of you! It is going to be a fantastic year!



Craig Burkhouse (Social Studies) cburkhouse@washoeschools.net

Welcome Clayton families, I'm excited to continue with the Magnet team this, my 3rd year! This year begins my 24th year teaching, my 9th in WCSD. The first 15 years I taught in Sacramento.

I received my BA I from CSU Sacramento in International Relations, my teaching credential from UC Davis and my MEd from Walden University.

As a middle schooler I lived in Germany, my dad worked for the Air Force. That is where my love of Social Studies started to blossom. Hopefully through the exploration of history, we can all come to better understand ourselves and our place in the bigger picture of things.

During my off time I love spending time with my kiddo, Eden (14) and our naughty dog Doc. We love camping, paddle boarding and exploring the lakes and trails that Nevada offers. However, as a native Californian we are often drawn back to the Pacific Ocean and the redwoods.

I am looking forward to seeing what we can discover and learn from one another this year!

Lori Breuch (6th Math/6th Science) (lbrech@washoeschools.net)



Hello and Welcome!! I'm excited to be teaching math and science to our 6th graders! I've been teaching and working with young people for over 30 years in the classroom and community organizations. I hold a Bachelor of Arts degree from CSU Chico in International Relations and German, my teaching credential through San Jose State University, and a Master of Science degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Western Governors University. I am currently pursuing National Board Certification. I taught up and down California and in Eastern Europe before coming to work for WCSD in 2015. While most of my career has been in German and English language acquisition and Social Studies, five of the last 6 years I've been a Gifted and Talented Education itinerant teacher pushing into all the core middle school classes creating a more rigorous curriculum...and I got hooked on the excitement of math and science! I just returned from taking a group of high school, mostly Clayton Magnet/AAP alumni to Europe for a sustainability themed leadership conference. This year we will forge confident strategies to meld the trepidation, curiosity, and excitement that middle school

brings. When I'm not at work, I'm dabbling in languages, photography, gardening, and outdoor recreation. The open road calls me, and I spend a lot of time plotting exploration and following ribbons of asphalt and dirt. My three awesome kids turned into 3 wonderful, productive adults with successful careers I couldn't have imagined for them in middle school. Until we meet, stay curious and wonderful!!

Janet Roberts (6th Grade) (jroberts@washoeschools.net)



Greetings! I'm Janet Roberts your 6th grade English and Social Studies!

Educational background: This is my 17th year in education. I graduated from UNR <Go Pack!> have an MS in Educational Leadership and am Nationally Board Certified. I am part of the Social Studies Vanguard group in WCSD and teach Classroom Management, Coaching and Mentoring classes for educators in the District. I am an instructional coach, a facilitator for Teacher's Leading Change, presented nationally for the National Council of the Social Studies and serve as treasurer for our local NCSS chapter. I've had the honor of being named both the WCSDSocial Studies Teacher of the Year and the WCSD High School Teacher of the Year. I believe that it is my duty to keep learning and gathering skills to reach the needs of my students whether they're GT or new-comers to the country.

Outside of school: I'm originally from Billings, MT and love returning home to my LARGE Italian family every break. I'm married to another educator, Keith Roberts, who teaches AP Capstone and Theater at the GATE Institute at Hug. He's been an educator for 27 years and has taught at Hug for all of them. Hug is a special place for us because it's where we met, our oldest graduated from (through the GT Institute) and where our youngest took her first steps on the theater stage. When I'm not at school, I enjoy sewing, lounging by our pool and going to our cabin outside of Chester, CA to relax with a book and a beverage.

Being a Buffalo means that I have a chance to learn and work with amazing educators who are so amazing that both my son and daughter are enrolled in our program. I'm looking forward to meeting you all and continuing to be part of the tapestry that is your student's educational journey.

Supplies

The following is a list of supplies that you will need to have with you every day in your CORE classes. This will help you be successful every day. Please plan to have these as soon as you can; however, it is helpful if you have them on the first day of school!

- A **LARGE BINDER with DIVIDERS** to store papers and notes for each class. It is recommended that students use a zipper binder to help prevent large messes when binders are inevitably dropped.
- **TWO *Graph Composition Notebooks***: one for *Math* & one for *Science*. They will need a new one each year.
- A **folder** or section of their binder for current homework and papers to take home and bring back to school.
- Students will need a **compass** and a **protractor**. All grade levels will use these at various times during the year. We will have some for use during class; however, students will benefit from one at home as well.
- **Pencils**. It is amazing how fast students can go through a set of pencils. Classrooms have sharpeners but if using a mechanical pencil, please also have some extra lead handy.

Other Supplies:

- If you would like to contribute to our class supply of general school materials, please donate as you feel you are able. We are particularly in need of **hand sanitizer, tissues, glue sticks**, and especially **pencils**. Students can donate these to Advisory teachers at the start of the year.
- **Calculators**: At times students will be using scientific or graphing calculators at school. We have scientific Casio calculators, model fx-300ms and graphing calculators, model Casio fx-9750GII available for student use at school. Students do not need to buy their own.
- **Agenda**: Students will be provided with an agenda from Clayton to be used to stay organized track what they complete in class and what they should complete for homework.

Go Buffaloes! Clayton Magnet-AAP Teachers

Leah Martinez	7 th /8 th Science	leah.martinez@washoeschools.net
Sharon Cabangon	7 th /8 th Math	scabangon@washoeschools.net
Stacie Tiernay	7 th /8 th English Language Arts	stiernay@washoeschools.net
Craig Burkhouse	7 th /8 th Social Studies	cburkhouse@washoeschools.net
Janet Roberts	6 th Social Studies & 6 th English Language Arts	jroberts@washoeschools.net
Lori Breuch	6 th Science & 6 th Math	lbreuch@washoeschools.net