

## Why Choose Russell?

- 1) We pride ourselves on the superior arts and science education we offer for *all* our students. Because there is ample evidence that exploration into the arts and science promotes the attitudes, characteristics and intellectual skills required to participate effectively in today's society and economy, we have expanded our programs to include a rich arts and science curriculum that is the only one of its kind in the Pikes Peak region. This curriculum includes Spanish, Yearbook/journalism, physical education, band, orchestra, concert orchestra, and piano laboratory as well as deep exploration into voice, visual art and dance. In addition, our course offerings include Advanced Science classes as well as our pre-engineering program, *Gateway to Technology*. Our middle level arts and science experience is designed to foster a lifelong passion for learning. Our middle school dance and concert orchestra programs are the only public school programs of their kind in the state.
- 2) Our composite scores as measured by the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) indicate that Russell students score high in reading, writing and math. Our students experience language arts, math, reading and science instruction at their performance level daily. Advanced Performance by Design (APxD), a program taught by our highly qualified Gifted and Talented teacher, complements our arts and science programs by offering specialized instruction to challenge students who demonstrate advanced abilities. All students who have not yet scored proficient in reading or math receive intervention instruction featuring SuccessMaker Math and Reading during every school day.
- 3) Russell Middle School has a highly qualified and experienced staff of talented teachers who offer a comprehensive, aligned curriculum and customized scheduling to meet the unique needs of all students, based on their individual performance data.
- 4) Historically, our students have performed well on district athletics teams. Our basketball, football, track, volleyball, and wrestling teams consistently place or bring home district championships.
- 5) In addition to all of the sports offered, there are multiple clubs, activities, and organizations for students. From our competitive robotics teams to the magic club, surely there is something to fit every student.
- 6) Our active Parent, Teacher and Student Association (PTSA) is unique at the middle school level, serving as a support group to sponsor or assist with dances, fund-raisers, open houses, health screenings, parent/teacher conferences and family nights. In addition, the Russell School Accountability Committee (SAC) functions as an important advisory board to the principal on achievement, school, and community concerns.
- 7) Russell prides itself on having achieved multiple recognitions and awards in recent years. Including, but not limited to:
  - Colorado Trailblazer School to Watch 2007-2008, 2010-2011, 2014-2016
  - Colorado School of Character 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2012-2015
  - Exemplar Site for RTI & PBiS 2008-2009
  - Best practices Site for RTI & PBiS 2009-2010
  - Colorado Technology Program of the Year 2009-2010
  - 2007-2010 "Higher Achievement" and "Higher Growth" on Colorado Growth Model