

# Sabin Middle School

## GIFTED MAGNET PROGRAM



### WELCOME!

**We are so excited to welcome you to the Sabin Gifted Magnet Program! Get ready to experience rigorous academics, exciting field trips, and long-lasting friendships. Here at Sabin, you will be challenged. We will develop critical thinking skills, solve real world problems, and let you express your creativity. All of our projects and activities relate to the themes of discovery, change, and conflict. Are you up for the challenge?**

**Be sure to keep an organized binder and track assignments in a planner every day. To be a successful student you will need to work hard, respect others, and most importantly – BE YOURSELF!**



### HIGHLIGHTS:

*(All activities vary by year.)*

- **Field Trips**
  - Denver Zoo, Natural History Museum, Challenger Learning Center, Catamount Institute, Fine Arts Center, & more!
- **Spring Camp**
  - Ropes Courses, Archery, Horse Riding, Campfires, Team-Building, Skits
- **Service Learning Projects**
  - Black Forest Restoration, Poverty Outreach, Retirement Home Visit, Military Backpacks
- **Academics**
  - Boat Challenge, Canada Monopoly Boards, Poetry Recitations, Case Studies, Speeches, Lab Experiments, Simulations, & more!
- **Competitions**
  - History Day, Math Counts, Science Fair, Essay Writing, Bridge Building, Battle of the Books
- **Clubs**
  - Intramurals, MESA, Rubik's Cube, Science Olympiad, Art, Music, Mine Craft, NJHS, Student Council, Yearbook, & much more!

# MEET OUR TEACHERS:



**Becky Marsh**, Gifted Magnet Program Coordinator and Teacher, holds a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction with an Emphasis on Gifted and Talented from UCCS and a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Baylor University. She takes kids on a reading adventure in sixth grade through classics such as *Call of the Wild* by Jack London and *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck. She also teaches an exciting forensics elective that gives students the opportunity to participate in speech, debate, Socratic Seminar, and comedic/dramatic monologue and dialogue. Mrs. Marsh was honored with the 2020 Crystal Apple Award for instructional excellence in D11. In her spare time, she enjoys snowboarding, reading, and spending time with her kids. ([rebecca.marsh@d11.org](mailto:rebecca.marsh@d11.org))

**Jordan Tunney**, the Gifted Social Studies instructor, loves finding ways to connect the content with the lives and interests of the students. Having moved from Michigan to Colorado as a child, Mr. Tunney has enjoyed the Pike's Peak region for most of his life. He graduated from Evangelical Christian Academy in 2005 and the University of Colorado in 2009. In 2013, Mr. Tunney became a certified Secondary Education instructor and taught his first year in Brush, CO. After a year of teaching American History, Jordan moved back to Colorado Springs where he spent two years teaching 7th Grade Social Studies at Sabin Middle School. He is an avid movie and comic book fan, and looks forward to assisting gifted students in their journey through history. ([jordan.tunney@d11.org](mailto:jordan.tunney@d11.org))



**Katrina Van Dyke**, one of the GMP's Language Arts teachers, is passionate about giving her students a voice. She loves promoting the power and beauty of the English language, and it is an honor for her to get to know her students through their writing. Mrs. Van Dyke was born in the Windy City of Chicago but spent her formative years in Reno, Nevada. Upon high school graduation, she spent a year living abroad where she attended the Lycée Balzac in Tours, France. From there, Mrs. Van Dyke attended the University of Notre Dame where she majored in both English and French. She began her teaching career at Irving Middle School in 2001 as part of the then S.A.I.L. program. In 2009 Mrs. Van Dyke earned her Master of Arts in Teaching from The Colorado College. At Sabin Middle School, she coaches Battle of the Books and has taught a myriad of GT electives. In her spare time, Mrs. Van Dyke enjoys hiking, skiing, and cooking. ([katrina.vandyke@d11.org](mailto:katrina.vandyke@d11.org))

**Julie Lounello**, the Gifted Magnet math teacher, loves sharing her passion and skills with her students on a daily basis. She was born and raised in Celina, Ohio. She earned her undergraduate degree at Indiana Wesleyan University while majoring in mathematics and education. Mrs. Lounello then earned her Master's degree from Michigan State University in Curriculum and Development with an emphasis in Mathematics and Leadership. Roommates and the Rocky Mountains brought her out west, and she has been working in Colorado Springs School District 11 since 2004. She began her career at Doherty High School; however, she has been with the Gifted Magnet Program since 2005. At Sabin Middle School, Mrs. Lounello leads the Rubik's Cube Club and Math Counts. In addition, she coaches girls' softball in the fall. In her free time, she enjoys reading, quilting, hiking, traveling, and visiting family with her husband. ([julie.lounello@d11.org](mailto:julie.lounello@d11.org))



**Chris Smith** leads students on a fascinating journey of exploring the world around them and discovering new ideas through scientific inquiry. After growing up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Grove City College and a Master of Educational Leadership degree from Grand Canyon University. With a passion for the outdoors, Mr. Smith enjoys hiking, rock climbing, and skiing. In the community he serves as a D11 instructional coach, mentors student teachers, and directs a local summer camp. Each day he shares a love of science through interactive lessons, innovative labs, and creative team work. Mr. Smith was honored with the 2014 Crystal Apple Award and received the 2011 Teachers First Award from news channel KOAA5. Students thrive as they apply science to daily life and investigate meaningful connections between chemistry, physics, biology, astronomy, geology, ecology, and more! ([christopher.smith@d11.org](mailto:christopher.smith@d11.org))

**Kayla Perkins** is passionate about the power of language and the written word. She teaches Reading and Language Arts for the GMP program. Ms. Perkins was born in Pueblo County, but has lived in Colorado Springs since she started college. She earned her Bachelor's degree from UCCS. Ms. Perkins was thrilled to have her student teaching and first official teaching job in District 11. At Sabin, Ms. Perkins is one of the WEB Coordinators and helps facilitate several clubs and after school activities. Ms. Perkins has traveled around Colorado, but has plans to travel to Europe and New Zealand. In her spare time she enjoys cooking, running, hiking, camping, and of course, reading. ([kayla.perkins@d11.org](mailto:kayla.perkins@d11.org))

