

Educational Options

Advanced Placement – 21 Courses Offered

Advanced Placement (AP) is a voluntary program that offers specific college-level classes at the high schools. By participating in the courses and exams, students are better prepared for the rigor of college, earn college credit while in high school and save tuition money as a result. All AP courses have a cost for the textbook. Students also pay for the end-of-course exam that leads to college credit. Districtwide, there are 21 AP classes offered. Not every course is offered at every high school every year. Check the High School Course Guide for a list of courses.

Charter Schools

New Vision Charter School and Loveland Classical Schools are tuition-free public schools of choice. New Vision Charter School serves K-8 and is located at 2366 E. First Street in Loveland. For information, call 970-593-6827 or go to the website at www.newvisioncharterschool.org. Loveland Classical Schools will serve K-12 and is located at 3835 SW 14th Street in Loveland. For information, go to the website at www.lovelandclassical.org.

Core Knowledge

Thompson School District offers a Core Knowledge curriculum that is open to all district elementary students at Truscott Elementary and to all district middle school students at Bill Reed Middle School. Core Knowledge offers an integrated curriculum rich in history, arts and science with a grade-by-grade sequence of learning. Both Truscott and Bill Reed offer Spanish as a foreign language. For information, call Truscott Elementary at 970-613-6900 or Bill Reed Middle School at 970-613-7200.

Ferguson High School

Ferguson High School (FHS) is a small high school that offers an alternative high school program designed to address the needs of the student for whom the regular comprehensive high school situation has not been successful. FHS provides a positive, safe, personalized and drug-free environment where high expectations are valued. Trust, proactive involvement and effective communication enable students to develop a sense of fulfillment, belonging, self-esteem and teamwork that help them to gain employability and life skills. These skills enable them to achieve and exceed their workforce and postsecondary goals upon graduation. For information, call FHS at 970-613-5300.

Global Studies Focus

Ponderosa Elementary School's global studies approach prepares students for a global society through a rigorous, inquiry-based philosophy that utilizes the Thompson School District's standards-based curriculum with an emphasis on multicultural awareness, technological proficiency, global citizenship, leadership skills and human connectedness. Twenty-first century skills such as critical thinking, creativity, lifelong learning, innovation, collaboration and communication skills are integral components of the students' success. These skills are nurtured and developed through real-world and virtual experiences in the classroom and beyond. The integration of real and virtual experiences will enhance learning for all while broadening community partnerships and developing global partnerships with other learning communities. For more information, contact Ponderosa Elementary at 970-679-9500.

Health and Wellness Focus

The health and wellness approach to learning at B. F. Kitchen Elementary focuses on increasing the academic achievement of each and every child through physical activity and wellness education. Research shows that students who are physically active and eat properly have better success at school. The school has embraced the idea that healthy bodies and healthy habits build healthy minds! The school enjoys several partnerships with various local community health and wellness agencies. B. F. Kitchen provides a

structure that includes learning literacy and math with movement, individual health profiles and goals, fresh fruit and vegetable snacks paired with mini-lessons on health and nutrition, swimming lessons for every 4th grader and recess before lunch. B. F. Kitchen was awarded the Gold Award of Distinction for Healthier Schools by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the first in the state of Colorado. Contact the school at 970-613-5500 for more information.

High School Options

Thompson School District provides several options for high school students and homeschooled students who need support in completing graduation requirements.

SOARS: Secondary Options for Achievement Resulting in Success (SOARS) provides an alternative for students who need support in completing graduation requirements. Before enrolling in SOARS, the student and a parent/guardian will need to schedule an interview with the counseling secretary by calling 970-613-7576 beginning Aug. 8. This year, there will be three sections of SOARS. Two classes will be held five days per week for four hours per day at the following times: 7:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:15-4 p.m. A third session will be held four days per week, Monday-Thursday, for five hours, 4:30-9:30 p.m., to meet the needs of students who work during the day.

Credit recovery: Students who want to enroll in credit recovery will need to contact the counselor at their home high school to obtain an application for Credit Recovery. Check the school website for times, locations and dates.

Homeschool courses: Homeschooled students will have the opportunity to participate in our high school SOARS program as part-time students. They can select courses from a full, comprehensive high school curriculum. Anyone interested in taking two classes during the 2011-2012 school year should call 970-613-7576 or 970-613-7592 beginning Aug. 8. Students will attend five days per week for four hours per day.

International Baccalaureate

International Baccalaureate (IB) is offered at three Thompson School District schools: Coyote Ridge Elementary, Lucile Erwin Middle School and Loveland High School. Coyote Ridge Elementary began the application process in May 2011 to become a candidate school for the Primary Years Programme. Lucile Erwin Middle School and Loveland High School have been certified as Middle Years Programme schools. IB students who wish to continue after the Middle Years Programme may apply for the Diploma Programme at Loveland High School. The IB program is a multicultural, international approach to learning the “big picture” through inquiry and critical thinking. With IB, all subjects are equal in importance including mathematics, science and technology, social studies, arts, personal, social and physical health and language. All levels of IB programs must be authorized by the IB Programme. The Diploma Programme has been authorized and grade 6-10 programs are in process. For information, call 970-613-5200 for high school, 970-613-7600 for middle years, and 970-679-9400 for elementary school programs.

LISA Program (all levels)

The Loveland area Integrated School of the Arts (LISA) program is an educational option that provides integrated learning opportunities in the arts, with the arts, and through the arts. Creative writing, dance, drama, visual arts, digital arts, and music are emphasized and infused into the core curriculum. Our LISA schools – Garfield Elementary, Bill Reed Middle School and Mountain View High School – offer K-12 opportunities for students in the Thompson School District. For information, call Garfield at 613-6000, Bill Reed at 613-7200 or Mountain View at 613-7800.

Math Focus

The Math Focus at Turner Middle School will strive to academically challenge those students who possess mathematical ability. Through the math focus program, students will have an opportunity to accelerate their mathematical journey by leaving Turner Middle School having completed algebra and geometry. All students in the math focus program will have the chance to expand their learning through a math project lab, which is incorporated into their regular classroom time. This experience gives the

student a mathematical edge when entering high school. For information, call Bill Siebers, 970-613-7403, or Suzanne Cox, 970-613-7454.

Nature and Science Focus

Big Thompson Elementary School of Nature and Science students will receive a well-rounded, in-depth, relevant education integrating basic skills through a broad curriculum with a nature and science focus. The students will explore and understand connections in their world and leave with a deeper understanding of the natural environment that surrounds them. For information, call Big Thompson Elementary at 970-613-5600.

Project Lead the Way

Project Lead the Way is a pre-engineering program that provides hands-on, project-based learning that adds rigor to traditional technical programs and relevance to traditional academics by using 3-D computer modeling software and 3-D printers and prototyping and applying scientific and mathematical concepts and principles to student-constructed projects. Students learn problem-solving methodology and actually test their student-generated products/models. While learning via application and guidance from instructors, students also learn to analyze, synthesize and evaluate concepts through a myriad of informational elements provided by means of the Project Lead the Way curriculum. Project Lead the Way courses are for ANY student who is interested in engineering, engineering technology and/or would like a rich hands-on, fun experience. Project Lead the Way is offered at Berthoud and Mountain View high schools. For information, call the high school.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

STEM is being offered at Berthoud High School as a focused educational program. STEM will strive to produce scientifically and mathematically literate graduates who can step into leadership positions at the most competitive postsecondary programs in the country. The curriculum, educational enrichment and interactive approach will develop scientists capable of planning, conducting and communicating their own investigations. Students will design their own research project and work with an adult mentor during their junior and senior years. Included in the program are Pogil Chemistry, Project Lead the Way engineering classes and Advanced Placement options. Students interested in entering this rigorous program should call Berthoud High School at 970-613-7700.

Thompson Online

Thompson Online offers a robust online education for students K-12 through the Thompson School District. Students attend classes through an online platform, accessing the curriculum and assignments 24/7 from anywhere with an Internet connection. Online teachers interact with students through multiple venues, creating a virtual learning environment. The school follows the same high accreditation requirements, including CSAP assessments and Annual Yearly Progress expectations, as any other Thompson school. Thompson Online students can grow, learn and earn credits toward graduation as a Thompson School District student. For further information, contact Kellie Bashor, principal, at 970-613-5400 or ThompsonOnline@thompson.k12.co.us.