

# Student Objectives

- Plan, research, and present an in-depth career and educational plan and/or research project which reflects expanded knowledge and experience in a field of interest.
- Actively pursue individual intellectual talents by conducting research to uncover the complexities within a chosen field.
- Develop the skills necessary to succeed in a professional setting.
- Gain an awareness of the lifestyle of professionals in the areas explored.
- Demonstrate decision-making skills and responsible behaviors in personal, school, and community contexts.
- Develop self-awareness and self-management skills to achieve school and life success

# INSTRUCTORS

## DR. JASON CLARKE

Ph.D., Educational Technology,  
Colorado State University  
M.A., English Literature  
Colorado University at Boulder  
B.A., Creative Writing,  
Colorado State University

## CHRIS LEE

M.Ed., Science Education,  
University of Arkansas at Little Rock  
MS., Biological Science  
Arkansas Technical University

## MICHELLE MCMILLEN-REFFNER

B.A. Liberal Arts, Alfred University  
M.Ed., Gifted and Talented Endorsement

## MITCH SCHNEIDER

M.A., Literature, Colorado State University  
B.A., English Education, Northwestern College

Academy teachers are scholars with expertise and advanced degrees in their field of study.

# GT HONORS ACADEMY

Fort Collins High School

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# ABOUT US

Through self-directed learning, students are motivated by freedom to pursue their own research topic and presentation format. Advanced Learning Plans (ALP) and Individual Career & Academic Plans (ICAP) will be developed and monitored throughout the program. Additionally, colleges and universities have shown stronger interest in students who are capable of planning and completing self directed projects.

## WHO SHOULD BE INTERESTED?

The Academy welcomes students to a unique environment where creativity, knowledge, skill application, and intellectual challenges are sought. We encourage tomorrow's leaders to build a network of high-achieving peers and to explore the issues facing the world today and in the future. Students can enhance and complement existing school activities or programs such as Advanced Placement classes or extra-curricular interests. Students must attend an informational session and complete an application to be considered for the program.

## TESTIMONIALS

“I'm Matthew, and I have been in this program since the beginning of this school year. I can honestly say I absolutely love this program. I had no idea what I wanted to be when I grew up until my mentor helped me discover what I was truly interested in.”

“Let me start by telling you what I did after your interview. I lead a weekly team meeting for one of the HP projects I am working on, and it started a few minutes after the interview ended. I was so jazzed by what I had just taken part in that I had to tell the whole team about this high school guy who had just interviewed a post-doctoral researcher at MIT about Artificial Intelligence! I was so excited as I talked about it that I could hardly stay in my seat!”

~Kevin Cooper, Mentor, International Telementor Program

## GT Enrichment

Designed for 10th-grade students, the course incorporates project based learning and collaboration skills and is devised to aid students in lifelong career and education goals. Leadership skills will be addressed and enhanced through classroom activities, readings, and simulations. Mentorship opportunities are possible to enhance student post-graduate networks and communication skills that promote and support post-secondary and career readiness.

## AP Seminar

AP Seminar is a discussion-oriented seminar featuring the intellectual and scholarly examination of significant ideas from varying disciplines pertinent to the human story. Participating in a variety of intellectual experiences, students will examine social-emotional elements of their continuing growth. Texts of differing facets of the human experience are explored. Projects and activities integral to the articles/topics are developed. Mentorship opportunities are possible to enhance student post-graduate networks and communication skills that promote and support post-secondary and career readiness. Students may obtain 10 Language Arts credits for this class. AP college credit is also available. For more information please visit [apstudent.org/seminar](http://apstudent.org/seminar)

## AP Research

Students will complete an individual research project to be presented during the course of the class. The curriculum requires students to conduct original research. Students will select an issue/question/problem in their area of interest and will practice the steps involved in creating a college-level research project. Mentorship opportunities are possible to enhance student post-graduate networks and communication skills that promote and support post-secondary and career readiness. AP college credit is available for this class. For more information please visit [apstudent.org/research](http://apstudent.org/research)

# STUDENTS DEVELOP

## Creativity

Students create original and authentic research topics and produce well developed projects

## Critical Thinking

Students practice listening and questioning skills while also learning how to give and accept constructive criticism.

## Communication

Students hone written and verbal communication through curriculum vitae development, weekly letters, research papers, formal interviews, and presentation of their final project.

## Research Skills

Students conduct in-depth research in their field of interest by conducting informational interviews with professionals, authentic work experience, and working one-on-one with a mentor.

## Self-Awareness

Students spend time examining their values, beliefs, interests, abilities, accomplishments, and future goals.

## Collaboration Skills

Students interact with professionals and peers, forming solid relationships and an important support group among their mentorship colleagues.

