



Welcome to 7th and 8th Grade at Rocklin Academy Gateway!

We've compiled what we think might be the Top 10 Things about Rocklin Academy Gateway's 7th and 8th Grade Program:

1. **Our Teachers:** Our teachers are simply the best!
2. **Core Knowledge:** We provide instruction using the rich, rigorous and engaging Core Knowledge Sequence. Not only that, we have backwards mapped the content of Core Knowledge to ensure students are ready for their coursework at Western Sierra Collegiate Academy starting in 9th grade--and well prepared for students' first AP course in 10th grade. Find out more about Core Knowledge [here](#). You can learn more about Western Sierra's academic program [here](#) and learn about some of their recent accolades at [this article](#) and at [this one!](#)
3. **Summit Learning Program:** Last year, we were one of about 100 schools invited to participate in the Summit Learning Program. This program was appealing to us, as it takes our fundamental beliefs of strong content knowledge (through the Core Knowledge sequence), differentiation to meet the needs of individual students, and the development of students' character and social-emotional well-being, and ties it into a neat package. The online tool we have access to, built by Facebook engineers, is completely customizable into which we have built *our* program. See [here](#) for an overview of the components of the Summit Learning Program, and dive into it with more detail [here](#). Our 7th grade students wrote this [beautiful summary](#) of the components of the program, for an overview. Also, check out Mr. Doyle's science class showcasing a project on [Good Day Sacramento!](#) And [this segment](#), too!
4. **Electives:** We offer electives which help support our students to explore their passions, and prepare them for their high school career at Western Sierra Collegiate Academy. Electives include Choir, Band, Art, Theater, Physical Education, Spanish, and Mandarin.
5. **Expeditions:** Expeditions are Rocklin Academy's innovative approach to providing additional enrichment opportunities for students, even beyond their elective choices. Each student has a time, every day, called Enrichment Block (E-Block for short). Schoolwide, E-Block provides a time where there is no new content taught; rather students have the opportunity to receive intervention, additional practice with content and skills, and engage in enrichment opportunities. 7th and 8th grade students' E-Block is all at the same time, at the end of the day. Students who require interventions are assigned to a teacher to provide specific, targeted intervention. Students who are not assigned to an intervention session have an opportunity to select from a list of Expeditions, 5-week exploratory courses. In the past, such courses have included Photography, Yoga, Blogging, a Book Club, and Coding. Taught by our teachers, these Expeditions provide additional opportunities for students to explore their passions. If you would like to help lead an Expedition, please let us know!

6. **Athletics:** The middle school years are excellent years to try a new sport! Sports help create culture at our school, and provide students opportunities to be part of a team. Sports include Girls and Boys Cross Country, Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, and Track and Field. Not only have our athletic teams been quite successful, students have had a blast being part of a team. You can find information about our athletics program [here](#).
7. **Sense of Community:** Our first 8th grade graduates repeatedly spoke of the sense of community and family they had with their fellow students. This is enhanced through the mentoring and mentor groups within the Summit Learning Program. Middle school aged students benefit greatly from a sense of belonging and being known, and that is a priority at Rocklin Academy Gateway.
8. **Lunch:** Not only does Chef Philippe prepare pretty incredible food, our 7th and 8th graders enjoy some additional freedoms at their lunch time! Students have the entire 40 minute block to eat, hang out, play games, and socialize with friends. Kids can eat in the multipurpose room or at the outdoor picnic tables. The courtyard and playground areas are open for the students' recreation.
9. **Clubs and Leadership:** We are excited that we have one Principal dedicated 6-8th grade students, and we know that one benefit of this will be the ability to focus on adding clubs and opportunities for students to help support our community. Being a part of a TK-8th grade school, our older students have lots of opportunities to be leaders and support our younger students. From walking our kindergarteners to class the first few weeks of school to providing tutoring in the morning to our first and second graders, our 7th and 8th grade students can really make an impact on our greater school community.
10. **Dances:** Three times a year, we hold dances for our 7th and 8th grade students. These dances are opportunities to dress up a little, let loose, and hang out with friends! Every once in a while teachers even show up (and believe it or not, the kids don't even mind!).

