



THE AVONDALE ADVANTAGE *for Gifted Learners*

BUILT THROUGH PARTNERSHIP. STRENGTHENED BY EXPERTISE. DESIGNED FOR WHAT'S NEXT.

Since 2017, Avondale's gifted program has been shaped through a powerful partnership with families. Parents believed in a vision for gifted learners that went beyond acceleration alone—one that recognized the academic, social-emotional, and developmental needs of gifted students.

As more families have chosen Avondale, the district has been able to grow its gifted community in a way that is thoughtful, responsive, and sustainable. That growth has made it possible to expand opportunities and deepen expertise.

A Purposeful Gifted Experience

Building on a strong foundation, Avondale intentionally cohorts gifted students to provide more learning alongside intellectual peers—without sacrificing choice or acceleration. Students benefit from expert educators, stronger relationships, and consistent, challenging learning environments, while still enjoying a full comprehensive high school experience with clubs, sports, social activities, and advanced opportunities.

Education Intentionally Designed for Gifted Learners

Teachers Who Understand the Whole Gifted Learner

Avondale has invested deeply in district-wide professional learning so that gifted students are supported across subjects and grade levels. All secondary teachers have participated in training focused on:

- Identifying gifted learners using multiple measures
- Understanding asynchronous development
- Supporting gifted students' social-emotional needs
- Addressing executive function development
- Using instructional practices grounded in gifted education research

This shared expertise means gifted students are not navigating high school alone—teachers understand their strengths, sensitivities, and learning profiles.

A Coordinated, Team-Based Approach to Gifted Support

A defining strength of Avondale's gifted program is the intentional collaboration across roles to support gifted learners throughout their high school experience. The district is prioritizing ongoing coordination among:

- Michelle Gierman, Gifted Education Coordinator
- Jennifer Wilson, Gifted Transitions and Pathways Coordinator
- Anita Steward, GATE Principal; Doug Wilson, AHS Principal
- GATE and AHS School Counselors
- GATE and AHS Teachers
- Experts and Community Professionals Specializing in Giftedness

This team-based approach ensures that students experience alignment across academics, social-emotional supports, and future planning—rather than navigating these pieces in isolation.



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A Clear Priority: Supporting the Transition to 9th Grade

As part of this priority:

- Gifted students will participate in a cohorted Gifted Transitions course, designed specifically to address gifted-related SEL, executive function skills, identity development, and future planning. This course runs the full school year.
- The course is intended to provide connection, guidance, and skill-building at a critical moment of change.

By embedding this support within a broader, collaborative system, Avondale is working to ensure gifted students begin high school feeling supported, understood, and connected.

Why Families Choose Avondale

- ✓ Gifted program grounded in family partnership since 2017
- ✓ Clear direction toward intentional cohorting and expert placement
- ✓ Teachers trained to understand how gifted students learn and develop
- ✓ Coordinated, team-based approach to supporting gifted learners
- ✓ Community committed to growing the program thoughtfully—together

2026 AVONDALE POINTS OF PRIDE

AVONDALE STUDENTS ARE...

- National Merit Scholars
- US Presidential Scholar Candidates
- Junior Olympic Athletes
- State and National Performers
- Scholastic Artists & Writers
- AP Scholars
- Model United Nations Delegates
- Math Olympiad Competitors
- Future Problem Solvers
- Student Law Club Members

Learn more:

www.avondaleschools.org

Most diverse district in Oakland County

49 SPOKEN LANGUAGES



89%

of graduates attend a **post-secondary** education program

AVONDALE GRADUATES RECEIVE OVER
\$5.6 MILLION
IN SCHOLARSHIPS

Annually

ROBOTICS
ranked top

10%
Worldwide

31 CTE COURSES
(Career Technical Education)

26 ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)
& HONORS COURSES