



Dear Parents and Students,

January 2017

We would like to thank you for your interest in applying to the Challenge Program at East Middle School. We feel strongly that there is a need for a middle school program that is geared toward gifted students with strong academics. We are committed to providing your student with an accelerated, enriched, and appropriate curriculum that will meet their unique needs. We also focus on the whole child and the social and emotional needs that many gifted children have.

The teachers in the Challenge Program enjoy working with gifted learners and value the unique contributions these students make and are willing to tackle challenges that come with this exciting job. Our Challenge Program teachers also teach regular education classes and are highly qualified. We want to be partners with parents to make our students' educational journey meaningful, and we value input from parents and students.

We feel that our application process provides a very well rounded picture of each student. We appreciate having a diverse group of students who bring different strengths and personalities to class. The features they usually have in common are a commitment to their education, a desire to learn, a willingness to do what it takes to succeed, and good communication skills. When submitting an application, the following are required:

- Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) at East Middle School– (must be taken through the Challenge Program)

Choose one testing time, and you must RSVP on-line by going to:

[east.mesa.k12.co.us](http://east.mesa.k12.co.us) or [mesa.k12.co.us](http://mesa.k12.co.us)

CogAT testing:	Wednesday, February 1 <sup>st</sup>	2:00-4:30 pm
	Monday, February 20 <sup>th</sup>	9:00-11:30 am

- Professional Educator Recommendation Packet
- Parent Questionnaire & Inventory (PIP)
- Student Questionnaire
- Report Card (attendance, grades, etc.)
- State or nationally normed achievement scores (STARS, CMAS, PARCC, IOWA, etc.)

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments concerning the Challenge Program at East Middle School. Applications will be accepted no later than 2:45 on **February 24, 2017.**

Sincerely,

Tina Sleigh, Challenge Coordinator  
970-254-5020, ext. 33145

[Tina.Sleigh@d51schools.org](mailto:Tina.Sleigh@d51schools.org)