

## Support From Teachers

To help students succeed, teachers will:

- **Provide Clear Guidelines:**  
Teachers will share detailed criteria and examples of the work needed to earn a certificate.
- **Offer Progress Updates:**  
Regular feedback will help students understand their current standing and what steps they need to take to improve.
- **Supply Resources and Support:**  
Students will have access to additional resources, such as study guides, practice tests, and one-on-one guidance, to help them meet their goals.
- **Encourage Goal Setting:**  
Teachers will work with students to set realistic, measurable goals for achieving the certificate.
- **Celebrate Success:**  
Teachers will highlight and celebrate student achievements, fostering a positive learning environment.

## What This Means for Your Child

With Academic Excellence Certificates, your child:

- Has the chance to earn recognition for their hard work and mastery of key concepts.
- Can feel a greater sense of pride and accomplishment.
- Will participate in a program designed to promote fairness, inclusivity, and success for all learners.

Let's celebrate every student's potential and achievements—one certificate at a time!

For more information, please contact your child's teacher or visit our school website <http://lavaridge.net/>.



## Academic Excellence Certificates: Empowering All Students



### Academic Excellence Certificates: A Parent's Guide

#### A New Approach to Recognizing Achievement

The Academic Excellence Certificates program is designed to celebrate and promote student success in **6th and 7th Grade Math, Science, and English Language Arts (ELA)**. This initiative is rooted in equity and inclusivity, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to be recognized for their efforts and accomplishments.

## What Are Academic Excellence Certificates?

- **Standards-Based Recognition:** Certificates are earned by demonstrating mastery that goes beyond current grade-level **Utah Core Standards** through advanced assessments, projects, and classroom performance.
- **No Separate Classes:** Unlike traditional honors programs, there are no special classes or prerequisites—every student participates in the same learning environment.
- **Equity-Focused:** This program provides all students with equal access to opportunities for recognition, promoting fairness and inclusivity.

## Why Move Away From Traditional Honors Classes?

Traditional honors programs often:

- Serve a small subset of high-achieving students.
- Exclude many capable learners who would thrive with access to challenging opportunities.
- Create barriers that may lead to disengagement or a lack of motivation for some students.

## How Does the Program Work?

- **Eligibility:** Every student in 6th and 7th grade math, science, and ELA is eligible to earn a certificate.
- **Evaluation Criteria:** Students are evaluated based on their:
  - Performance on standards-based assessments.
  - Quality of projects and presentations.
  - Mastery of key concepts as outlined in the curriculum.
- **Frequency:** Certificates are awarded **at least once per semester**, ensuring students have ongoing opportunities to work toward and achieve recognition



By shifting to a **certificate-based model**, we open the door for all students to excel and be recognized for their hard work.

## Benefits of Academic Excellence Certificates

- **Increased Student Motivation and Engagement**
  - Students feel inspired to put forth their best effort when working toward a tangible goal.
- **Personalized Learning Experiences**
  - Teachers can focus on meeting each student where they are, helping them progress toward mastery.
- **Recognition of Individual Achievement**
  - Celebrates individual accomplishments and showcases personal growth.
- **Reduced Stigma**
  - Removes the divide between “honors” and “regular” classes, fostering a positive learning community.
- **Equity-Driven Differentiation**
  - Ensures that every student, regardless of their starting point, has access to meaningful learning opportunities.