

ABOUT US

Silverleaf School is a modern micro-school that focuses on meeting the needs of highly gifted learners. We provide continuum of individualized options in an alternative learning environment that prioritizes innovation and creativity.

Silverleaf has a curriculum that is forward-thinking by offering a 21st-century STEM-based education. The future is here, and public education systems are ill-equipped to be responsive in a time where the world and its technological capacities are changing daily. In an automation and information age, students are not being prepared for the world they will face.

The unique characteristics of gifted children create qualitatively different life experiences which can make a child vulnerable. Being given a place to belong can provide the strong sense of identity and confidence that gifted children don't find in a traditional school setting.

WHY SHOULD LOCAL BUSINESSES SUPPORT INNOVATIVE GIFTED EDUCATION AT SILVERLEAF SCHOOL?

- **Education of highly gifted students is unsupported in Public Schools.** The Salem-Keizer budget for Talented and Gifted Education, district-wide, is **less than \$500,000** while the budget for special education is **almost \$40 million.**ⁱ
- **American students rank 25th in math out of 27** industrialized countries.ⁱⁱ **Only 11 percent of bachelor's degrees in the United States are in the sciences or engineering,** compared with 23 percent in the rest of the world and 50 percent in China.ⁱⁱⁱ
- **Oregon has the second lowest graduation rate in the country.**^{iv} Of high school dropouts, **88% dropped out due to boredom** yet had passing grades^v
- **"The dropout rate of gifted and talented students from high school constitutes the loss of a national resource that must be addressed."**^{vi}
- **81% of teachers believe that "our advanced students need special attention** – they are the future leaders of this country, and their talents will enable us to compete in a global economy."^{vii}

DONATIONS

Your donations support equipment and supplies for art, science, and project-based learning; instruction for special programs (art, music, robotics, and physical education, etc.); and allows us to keep tuition low enough for low-income families of highly gifted children to access our services. We will recognize donors on our website and other school materials.

ⁱ Salem-Keizer Public Schools 24J/32 Adopted Budget 2018-19

ⁱⁱ Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

ⁱⁱⁱ National Summit on Competitiveness

^{iv} U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2014-2015

^v Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation: "The Silent Epidemic"

^{vi} National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented, 2002

^{vii} High Achieving Students in the Era of No Child Left Behind