

**A PLACE TO  
LEARN;  
A PLACE TO  
TRULY BELONG**

Lionsgate Academy is a public charter school for students of all abilities, and serves grades 7-12. Our standard-based general education programming supports students both on the autism spectrum and those without disabilities. We offer a small classroom environment, a wide variety of support services and a highly trained staff.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

[www.lionsgateacademy.org](http://www.lionsgateacademy.org)

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**LEADERSHIP  
ENRICHMENT  
OPPORTUNITIES**

**LEO Program**



Lionsgate Academy's Authorizer is:

Novation Education Opportunities  
3232 Denmark Ave, Ste 130 Eagan, MN 55123  
[www.neoauthorizer.org](http://www.neoauthorizer.org)



## INTRODUCTION

With recent legislation regarding the World's Best Workforce and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Lionsgate Academy has become acutely aware of the need to provide services for our students who exhibit qualities of higher order and critical thinking skills, as well as having Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or other disabilities. These students demonstrate the potential for excelling in academic, intellectual, leadership and self-advocacy areas and need access to opportunities that will enhance these skills. Students who excel in these areas (also known as twice-exceptional or 2e), unfortunately, tend to get overlooked. With this in mind, the LEO program was developed to challenge students' higher-level academic ability while meeting their unique needs.

## QUALIFICATION / IDENTIFICATION

The qualification/identification of LEO students is a multi-faceted process that takes into account a student's giftedness across a variety of domains. The LEO program is especially sensitive to the needs of students who are deemed "twice exceptional", that is, these are students with both a disability and who also meet the criteria for giftedness. In addition, Lionsgate is committed to providing opportunities for students with an opportunity gap, including students of color and non-English native speakers.

## CRITERIA

- Intellectual capacity
- Academic achievement
- Teacher recommendation
- Student interest

## SOCIAL / EMOTIONAL WELL BEING

Academic and intellectual challenges are critical to the healthy development of a twice exceptional student. Equally important is the development of social and emotional capacities. The LEO Program supports student growth in the areas of self-knowledge, motivation, leadership, peer relationships, perfectionism, stress management, positive self-concept, advocacy, organization, and more.

## MISSION

To engage and guide students that possess exceptional gifts, talents, and abilities by providing opportunities to strengthen and apply critical thinking, leadership, and advocacy skills within their communities.

## CURRICULUM

This program explores the art of creating habits and attitudes that foster leadership. Utilizing the Habitudes® curriculum (<http://growingleaders.com/habitudes/>) and Habits of Mind, students "break out of the herd mentality" to influence others in positive ways. Students will be challenged to take initiative, overcome complex problems through creative persistence, capitalize on personal strengths and develop critical thinking skills. These skills produce better life choices such as improving study habits, choosing healthy friends, advocating for themselves and others, and setting meaningful goals. Project-based learning, inquiry learning, self-directed study, technology resources and service learning projects are also key components of instruction in the program.