

GATE Program

Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment Department

Coordinator's Corner



Welcome back from break! I cannot believe how fast this year is going. As I stated earlier this year, it is my continued goal to strengthen the curriculum and instruction practices to meet the diverse needs of our gifted students in the classroom, and I am proud to say that our GATE Leadership team and Teacher Certification Program are off to a great start in accomplishing this ongoing goal. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or ideas that you have for the GATE program in our schools.

-Jessie Green

GATE Office

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Happenings

GATE Day –

Our first GATE Day series of the year took place in October and November of 2016. This year the focus is on inventors, inventions, and the critical thinking process of developing an idea and seeing it through the design process. The culmination of the program was student presentation on a unique invention they created. Not only is it important for our gifted students to be challenged by the curriculum they experience, but it is also important to address social and emotional needs that are common in gifted education. These lessons were embedded in each session to promote self-awareness, goal setting, and collaboration. I think one of the most important lessons is that failure is not something to fear, but to learn from, which is key when testing and refining an invention prototype. The goal is for them to transfer this understanding from GATE Day into their daily life experiences.

GATE Day will resume the week of January 15, 2017, for the 4th/5th graders who have not yet gone through the series this school year. Newly-identified third graders will participate in a three-week series in May. Please refer to the schedule that was sent home, or the [website](#) to confirm the correct days and times for your student.

“ GATE Day was good because there were a lot of things that we did. I really liked the project we did which we had to build something new. We built a cell phone holder that ended up not working but it was still fun to use the engineering design.” – PVSEA GATE student



Expert Night/Inventor's Tank

I have been checking in with the Expert Night and Inventor's Tank Google Classrooms, and I am excited to see that students are making progress on these self-driven, enrichment projects. Everyone is invited to attend Expert Night at the Camarillo Community Center on Friday, March 24, 2017, to see the students demonstrate their projects. To kick off the PVSD Inventor's Tank we held a S.C.A.M.P.E.R. Night for middle school students. To the right is a picture of students collaborating to make something new out of something old.

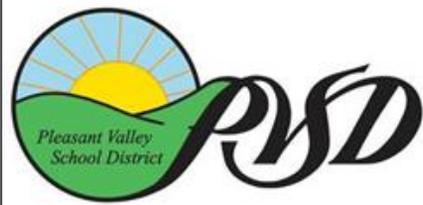
Middle School Disney Animation

GATER is once again coordinating a middle school Disney experience. This year the topic is animation. The district will coordinate the teachers and curriculum to help support this GATER adventure. Please make sure you have [registered](#) with GATER, the parent group, for more information about the program and sign ups.

PVSD Community Interest/Career Fair

This year, the PVSD Career Fair will also host middle school and high school sports and clubs, as well as an Ability Awareness Fair to raise awareness and empathy among our students. This event will take place on February 23, 2017, from 5:30-7:00 pm in the gym of Monte Vista Middle School for all PVSD students and families. [Please click here, or contact me ASAP if you would like to participate.](#)





GATE Program

You will receive a Blackboard email and/or voicemail with important updates, and to let you know when information is being sent home with your students. Please make sure your information is up-to-date in Parent Connect to ensure you receive timely communication.

GATE Leadership Team/School Site Facilitators

Those on the GATE Leadership Team are also the School Site Facilitators. They are to act as the liaison between the parents, teachers, and GATE Coordinator. They are here to help support you and your child in our GATE Program.

Cam Heights- [Heather Liddell](#)

Dos Caminos- [Lori Schultze](#)

La Mariposa- [Katrina Salas](#)

Las Colinas- [Edie Robbins](#)

Las Posas- [Devon Hanks](#)

Los Primeros- [Jean Rush](#)

Monte Vista- [Paula Feinberg](#)

Pleasant Valley School of Engineering and Arts- [Carolina Howard](#)

Santa Rosa- [Melissa Lim](#)

Rancho Rosal- [Brynn Stotko](#)

Tierra Linda- [Kaitlyn Fargo](#)

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Program Overview

PVSD is proud to announce that we use multiple measures to identify students as gifted. If a student is identified as GATE, they will fall in one of three categories: Intellectual Ability, High Achievement, and Specific Academic Area.

Our district does not identify students in the category of creativity in the form of artwork and dance. PVSD looks at creative thinking and problem solving in the work samples to identify them in the three categories (Intellectual Ability, High Achievement, or Specific Academic Area), but artwork-based creativity is not an identification category. This is important to consider when submitting work samples.

Although the program is not supported with federal funds, PVSD recognizes the importance of teaching all children, including gifted students, using best practices to help them achieve their maximum potential. We are fortunate that PVSD incorporates GATE in the budget to maintain the program in our schools, and for the GATER parent group who supplement funds for enrichment activities.

Leadership Team

Our Leadership Team is getting ready to meet for the third time. We have identified curricular areas of need for increased rigor and enrichment, and will begin working in committees to create and share resources with teachers across PVSD. Our areas of focus are enrichment/extension activities, depth and complexity, social and emotional needs, and blended and virtual learning experiences.

Professional Learning

I will be attending and presenting at the California Association for the Gifted Annual Conference March 3-5, 2017, and am excited to collect new ideas and resources to share with our team as we continue our committee work.

I continue to attend the monthly Tri-County GATE Council meetings. This is a group of educators for the gifted, and we work to provide parent resources, student activities, and professional tools for teachers. It allows me to collaborate with other districts to evaluate and improve our district's practices in gifted education. PVSD is hosting four guest districts in our spring GATE Teacher Certification Cohort that is recognized by TCGC.



We need to hear from you! In the fall I sent a link for a parent survey and only received 12 responses. In order to make the program the best it can be, we need to hear from you!

GATE Library

This is an often untapped resource available to you in the GATE classroom at Monte Vista. If you are interested in books that discuss common issues faced by families with gifted kids, please let me know. Books are listed on the website. Call or email me your needs and I can have resources delivered to your site facilitator.

Website

We are currently working on revamping the [GATE page of the PVSD website](#). Please be patient as the updates are made. Also, please feel free to email me with suggestions of what would be of value to you on our GATE page.

Survey Link

Please take a moment to give our GATE Leadership team some parental insight by completing this new survey by clicking [here](#).

GATER Corner

GATER is a non-profit parent group dedicated to supporting Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) in Pleasant Valley School District (PVSD). GATER (and your student!) needs your help! We are in need of GATE parents to join our steering committee. We especially need a chair to lead the group. We meet on the evening of the first Wednesday of the month. We also need a parent to organize our middle school science day at the end of this month. We are only able to support the PVSD GATE program with your help. www.pvsdgater.org