



GATE Program

Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment Department

Coordinator's Corner



Here we are in spring. This year has gone so fast, and I am very proud of all the great things our GATE students have done this year. This was a year of re-evaluating practices to determine the direction our program needs to take to ensure we are giving our gifted students the services that they need. I know changes in policy and procedure are not always easy to swallow, and we will see even more shifts next year. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we revamp our program for your students.

I will be on leave the first week of May as we anxiously await the arrival of our second son. Please know that the program will continue as usual, and Lisa Bertels can direct your calls and questions to the appropriate place, should any arise.
-Jessie Green

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Highlights

GATE Day –

All of our schools have completed the six-Week GATE Day Symposium focusing on Inventor's and the Invention process. They came up with some pretty clever inventions by S.C.A.M.P.E.R.ing old ideas into something new. Our 3rd grade GATE students will get a three week mini-session in May.

Career Fair-

I would like to give a big shout out to all of the community members who donated their time and goods to support our students. We had a successful event where the community was able to share about their field and inspire our students' futures. Parents and students were energized at the event. Presenters were extremely impressed with the level and maturity of our students' questions. I couldn't be more proud! Many businesses were very generous in their donations, and we had some very happy recipients. I would like to extend a congratulations to Connie Halpern, owner of Mrs. Fig's Bookworm who graciously donated, participated, and managed to arrange for five local authors to present. She was recognized by the city of Camarillo as this year's Entrepreneur of the Year, a well deserved recognition to someone so giving to our kids!

Expert Night and Inventor Tank-

Students presented their final projects at this event, held at the Camarillo Community Center. I am always blown away by the ingenuity of our students, and their dedication to grow independently as learners. It is such a great opportunity for them to present to a larger audience that extends beyond the classroom walls. Thank you to our staff, parents, friends, board members, and other invested community members for attending. A special congratulations to Diego from Rancho Rosal, who won a scholarship from the Tri-County GATE Council to continue with his project to raise awareness about autism. He will be presenting to educators at the TCGC Colloquium in Goleta on April 22nd, and his book will also be published and available on Amazon in April. Thank you to all who supported Diego in this great endeavor, and way to go Diego! We are proud of you!



Tri-County GATE Council "We Honor Our Own"

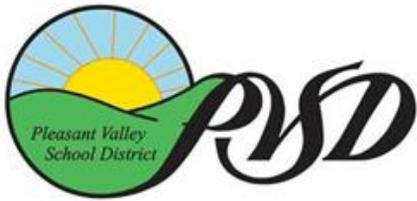
Every year, districts are able to recognize people who have contributed to their gifted education program. This year, PVSD recognized the dedication and support of Bob Rust, PVSD Board Clerk, and Kaitlyn Fargo, Tierra Linda Teacher and school site facilitator, for their ongoing support of our program and students. Thank you!

From Director of Curriculum, Debbie Maki:

Congratulations are in order for our GATE Coordinator, Jessie Green, who was honored at the California Association for the Gifted (CAG) annual conference in March as the Distinguished Service Award winner in their Pacific Region. Jessie was selected for going above and beyond in contributing to the interests of gifted and talented children. From CAG: "Tri-County GATE Council has benefited and has been inspired by (her) generous and effective 'flipped' GATE curriculum which encourages teachers to learn more about their gifted and talented students. Thank you for all the good work you do on behalf of gifted children." PVSD is proud of all that Jessie has accomplished with the GATE program and commends her on this well-deserved recognition.



@PVSDGATE2016
@PVSDCamarillo
@TCG8Council
#CAG2017
#WeHonorOurOwn



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.

This newsletter is posted on the GATE Webpage and has hyperlinks enabled.

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 content specific.

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 state 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.

Changes

Next year you will see changes in our program for gifted students. GATE is not just a bonus program during a part of the year. True gifted education is about providing the right learning resources for our advanced learners both academically, and social-emotionally on a daily basis. To that end, we are working to strengthen gifted instruction in the regular classroom through clustering, differentiation, training, and enrichment opportunities. As well as differentiating the regular instruction, our GATE students will have the opportunity to engage in a virtual enrichment classroom throughout the year versus the previous six-week model. This new platform will connect the enrichment to content in the curriculum, as well as outside connections. It will foster independent learners to focus on solving real world problems at their pace and interest level while earning badges. We are open to parent resources and ideas to help us create a progressive gifted education that will keep us within our budgetary means. If you have any ideas or resources, please let me know.

In addition to what the district provides in the classroom, **GATER (non-profit parent group)** organizes some amazing extracurricular opportunities for our students. This partnership helps to make our program stand out amongst those in surrounding districts.

Change is sometimes hard to accept; your patience and flexibility is appreciated as we move the program into a productive, and daily 21st century model.

GATE Library

This is an often untapped resource available to you. 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.

Additional Parent Resources

[TCGC](#) (Tri-County GATE Council)

[SENG](#) (Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted)

[NAGC](#) (National Association for Gifted Children)

[NSGT](#) (National Society for the Gifted and Talented)

[Hoagies' Gifted Educational Page](#)

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 meet on the evening of the first Wednesday of the month. We are only able to support the PVSD GATE program with your help. www.pvsdgate.org

Register with GATER to receive the latest updates on enrichment activities for your GATE student.

Science Day for 7th & 8th Grade GATE Students

Saturday, April 29 at Camarillo High School
9am-12pm or 1pm-4pm
\$20 per student

Learn advanced DNA/biotech material through hands-on activities.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094caba82aa75-biotech/>

NASA Jet Propulsion Lab Field Trip

Friday, June 30 - Sign-ups will open May 11



Summer Book Club

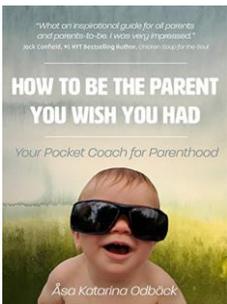
Parents have requested that we address the students Social, emotional, and affective needs. The book, **Take Off: Your Pocket Coach to Student Success — An Interactive Journal** Paperback – by [Émile Nelson](#) is a start.

This summer, we will test drive an online book club that has the potential to result in a face-to-face Q&A with the author in the fall. Author Emile Nelson was gracious enough to present at our career fair, and would love the opportunity to work with our students in the future. I will be reading his book mentioned below, and would love to have students join me in this interactive journey. Students who participate in the online book club via Google Classroom will be invited to the Q&A with the date TBD.



If this goes well, the hope is to continue the book club throughout the year and connect with other local authors from a variety of genres.

He has also worked on the book *How To Be The Parent You Wish You Had: Your Pocket Coach for Parenthood* with his co-author [Åsa Katarina Odbäck](#). This is geared towards parents for those who wish to add to their own summer reading.



To purchase the book, please use this link:

<https://www.amazon.com/Take-Off-Student-Success-Interactive/dp/0692776060>

To join the Google Classroom, students need to use the code: **20csk3v**

Take Off: Your Pocket Coach to Student Success — An Interactive Journal Synopsis: Less than 35% of college students graduate in four years, and that figure is actually closer to 19% at most public universities. Even worse, more than 40% never graduate at all! It's obvious that students need someone on their side, but not everyone can afford their own personal coach. So we developed Your Pocket Coach — the solution that anybody can afford! Instead of just telling you what to do, this interactive journal coaches you with stories, tips and simple steps, so you can... Learn More, faster! Boost Your Creativity! Build Better Relationships! Feel More Involved, Engaged and Confident! And Succeed in College! Everybody has the potential to be successful and live an awesome life! Your Pocket Coach will show you how.

Other Summer Ideas and Resources

- [TED Talks for Kids](#)

- Identify Problems in your Community/world and work on solutions
- Learn to [Sketchnote](#) to activate your brain.
- Learn about the world through [Postcrossing](#) as a family.
- [Geocache](#) as a family.
- Learn a new hobby, and create a way to share it with others.
- Explore games and activities on <http://www.mensaforkids.org>
- Keep a reflective journal about your summer.
- Focus on having a growth mindset and challenge yourself to something new.
- Practice yoga or Zentangle to help you focus and relax.