



Gifted/Talented Programs Parent Newsletter

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Los Angeles Unified School District
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LAUSD CORE BELIEFS: 1. Start with students, 2. Families are our partners, 3. Success is in the classroom, 4. Diversity is our strength, 5. Effective teaching, leadership, and accountability are the keys to our success.

Dr. Debbie Dillard, District Coordinator
Dr. Lucy Hunt, District Specialist
Erin Yoshida-Ehrmann, District Specialist
Catherine Estrada, District Specialist
Wynne Wong-Cheng, Psychological Services Specialist
Yolanda Muñoz, Secretary

We're Picking Up "STEAM!"

You may have heard the terms "STEM" and "STEAM" used lately to describe the latest movement in education for 21st Century learners. As a matter of fact, LAUSD has numerous Magnet schools whose focus area is STEM or STEAM. So, what do they stand for and what's the difference between the two?

STEM stands for "Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math." However, the additional "A" in STEAM stands for "Arts." Some may wonder, "Why include the Arts as part of STEM?"

According to David A. Sousa and Tom Pilecki, authors of the book FROM STEM TO STEAM: USING BRAIN COMPATIBLE STRATEGIES TO INTEGRATE THE ARTS, "Many scientists, mathematicians, and engineers know that the arts are vital to their success, and they use these skills borrowed from the arts as scientific tool. These include the following:

- Draws on curiosity
- Observes accurately
- Perceives an object in a different form
- Constructs meaning and express one's observations accurately

- Works effectively with others
- Thinks spatially (How does an object appear when I rotate my head?)
- Perceives kinesthetically (How does it move?)"

These skills may not be necessarily evident through STEM alone, but may be developed through the Arts (i.e. poetry and prose, drama, dance, music and painting). The Arts challenge the brain to engage in both divergent and convergent thinking, develop critical and creative thinking skills, and appeal to both our intellect and emotions. Research shows that the Arts also help develop long term memory and help reduce stress.

Interested in learning more about STEAM? Parents and educators are welcome to join us at the Los Angeles City/County GATE Conference. This year's theme is "Full STEAM Ahead: The Intersection of 21st Century Learning for Gifted Learners."

DATE: Saturday, Dec. 21, 2013

TIME: 7:30 am-4:15 pm

LOCATION: Pasadena Convention Center, 300 E. Green St, Pasadena, CA 91101

Online registration is \$95 until Dec. 13. Register at

www.giftedchildrenla.org and click on "Upcoming Events."

Onsite registration will be \$120.

Call Gifted/Talented Programs at (213) 241-6500 for more information.

Do you have a child in grade 4 or above who is highly creative or demonstrates superior leadership abilities?

If so, consider having your child referred for GATE identification in the Creative Ability or Leadership Ability category. Student's accomplishments may be documented by including one or more of the following items:

- **Portfolio**
- **Essay**
- **Bulleted summary**
- **PowerPoint on DVD/CD**
- **Multimedia presentation on DVD/CD**
- **Awards/media publicity etc.**

Examples of student accomplishments may include, but are not limited to:

- **Student Body President/ Council with leadership evidence**
- **Projects such as food/gift collections, community or school-wide outreach, visiting the elderly, fundraising, etc.**
- **Student-created original, authentic work (not based on a classroom assignment or worksheet)**
- **Original scripts/screenplays**
- **Creating his/her own language using logical coding**
- **Creating a board game or puzzle with new concepts, rules, and goals.**

Schools are required to develop a service plan to support students identified in the Creative and Leadership Ability categories. The deadline to submit the application and documentation for this school year is **May 30, 2014**. Contact the GATE Coordinator or administrator at the school for more information.



FYI:

Davidson Young Scholars Application Available

The national Davidson Young Scholars program provides free services to help profoundly gifted students discover others with similar interests and abilities, utilizing their skills and talents to maximize their educational potential and make a difference in the lives of others. Parents collaborate with a skilled team of Family Consultants who provide individualized services based on each family's unique needs, most often in the areas of educational advocacy, social and emotional development, and enrichment opportunities. Read Young Scholar Success Stories (www.DavidsonGifted.org/YSSuccessStories) about how the Young Scholars program has helped make a difference in the lives of these students. The Davidson Young Scholars application deadline is the first of each month. Please visit the website to learn more: www.DavidsonGifted.org/YoungScholars

NOTE: This program is not affiliated with LAUSD Gifted/Talented Programs. All questions should be addressed directly to Davidson Young Scholars program.



2014 Dates to Remember for GATE/SAS Parents



GATE/SAS Parent Workshops (all grades): 5:30-6:30 pm

OLSAT-8 Overview (parents of 2nd graders): 6:30-7:30 pm

- South LA/Harbor Area: Monday, January 27 Banning HS
- San Fernando Valley Area: Monday, February 3 Grant HS
- East LA Area: Monday, February 10 Nightingale MS
- West LA Area: Thursday, February 20 Westchester HS

Annual GATE/SAS Parent Conference: 8:30 am-12:30 pm

- Saturday, March 22 at Virgil MS
- Free. No registration required



Stay Connected to Gifted/Talented Programs!



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