Gifted/Talented Programs Parent Newsletter

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.

What You Should Know about the Creative Ability Category

Did you know that LAUSD identifies students for GATE in seven different categories? Three of the categories (Intellectual ability, high achievement ability and specific academic ability) can be thought of as what Dr. Joseph Renzulli, Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Connecticut, calls, “schoolhouse giftedness,” or test-taking/lesson-learning giftedness. The other four categories (visual arts ability, performing arts ability, creative ability, and leadership ability) could be considered creative-productive giftedness in which emphasis is placed on developing original material/products and applying thinking skills to solve real-world problems.

In LAUSD, a student in 4th-12th grade may be referred in the Creative Ability category based on the following characteristics:

- Displays fluency and generates a number of ideas
- Shows flexibility
- Elaborates, adds to, embellishes, or builds off of an idea/product
- Conceptualizes difficult ideas
- Is willing to try new things or take risks
- Demonstrates imagination and inventiveness
- Expresses curiosity

A portfolio of the student’s accomplishments must be submitted with evidence that may include, but is not limited to:

- Student-created original/authentic work (not based on classroom assignment or worksheet)
- Original short stories, songs, scripts/plays, poems, videos, animations, comic books
- Creation of his/her own coded language
- Creation of board games, video games, puzzles, or computer programs with new concepts, rules, and goals
- Evidence of an “out of the box” approach to solving real world problems

The portfolio may be in the form of a binder, folder, photo album, CD, DVD or flash drive. In addition to the portfolio, the school must submit a plan to support and monitor the development of the student’s creative abilities. If you feel your child may be a good candidate for referral in the Creative Ability category, then speak to your child’s teacher, the GATE coordinator, or the principal at your child’s school about how to start the identification process. Deadline: May 29, 2015.

Master Class Institute on Gifted Education

On Saturday, November 1, 2014 over 1,300 administrators, teachers, psychologists and parents attended the Master Class Institute on Gifted Education at the Pasadena Convention Center for the opportunity to learn from some of the most renowned experts in the field of gifted education. Dr. Pedro Noguera gave a powerful and moving keynote address, “Equity Through Excellence: Ten Principles and Practices.” We would like to thank LAUSD Superintendent, Ramon Cortines, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction, Dr. Ruth Perez, Chief Academic Officer, Gerardo Loera, and Director of Advanced Learning Options, Arzie Galvez, for attending and showing their support for gifted and talented students across Los Angeles.

If you did not have the opportunity to attend this year’s event but would like to access resources shared at some of the workshops, please visit: [http://www.giftedchildrenla.org/master-class-institute-resources.html](http://www.giftedchildrenla.org/master-class-institute-resources.html)

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Need more information about LAUSD GATE Programs?
Then plan on attending one of the 2015 GATE/SAS Parent Workshops across the District!

5:30-6:30 pm
General Overview of Gifted/Talented Programs (parents of LAUSD students in all grade levels)

6:30-7:30 pm
Overview of OLSAT assessment for identification in the High Achievement category (parents of LAUSD second grade students)

- Monday, February 2
  Peary MS
  (South LA/ Harbor area)
- Thursday, February 5
  Grant HS
  (San Fernando Valley)
- Monday, February 9
  Nightingale MS
  (Downtown/ East LA Area)
- Thursday, February 12
  Loyola Village ES
  (Westside/ West LA area)

SAVE THE DATE
The 2015 GATE/SAS Parent Conference will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2015 from 8:30 am-12:30 pm at Virgil Middle School. Fliers will be available soon at all LAUSD schools.

WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US