



# Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) News

## *Setting Goals*

With the end of the first trimester at the elementary schools, many of you have either just met with teachers or will be doing so soon. This is an excellent opportunity to discuss goals for your child and the types of differentiated instruction that will be used in his/her classroom this year. At the middle school, students meet with their teachers to establish goals for the year. These children should be able to tell you about the goals that they set. Keep in mind that goals can be set to help your child foster a particular talent that they have or to address an area that is in need of improvement. By knowing what specific goals your child is working on, you may be able to offer support or encouragement at home in reaching these goals.

## *Enrichment Programs*

**Foxboro:** Students at Foxboro Elementary are participating in a variety of extensions within the grade level curricula. Small group Instruction using Bloom's Taxonomy of higher thinking skills is used with all GATE students. Foxboro also offers Algebra academy and GATE enrichment programs are planned for later in the school year.

**Cambridge:** Cambridge is offering Algebra Academy after school two days a week. Cambridge is also planning to offer a Simple Machines/Mindstorms/Logo project for June and July.

**Center:** Center Elementary is providing flexible grouping to provide accelerated learning opportunities in reading and math. In addition, project based learning projects are offered that are open ended and designed to challenge the GATE student.

**Scandia:** Scandia is offering GATE students Algebra Academy. Enrichment opportunities on and off campus are planned for later this school year. GATE students also have opportunities in classrooms to participate in special projects and extended curricula.

**Travis:** Travis Elementary School conducted a fall after school enrichment program that included Intramurals, Art, Media, Drama, Science, and Choir. Students also have the opportunity to participate in a leveled reading program.

## *Ongoing Instruction*

Many teachers in the Travis School District have been employing methods of differentiated instruction for years in order to meet the needs of their students. The district also provides ongoing training opportunities in order for teachers to learn new methods and how to implement them effectively. In the past, elementary teachers have been able to attend sessions that included an Introduction to Differentiation, Differentiating Instruction for Mathematics, and Working with English Language Learners and Underachieving Gifted Students. Teachers have also been receiving ongoing training in how to effectively use the District adopted language arts and math instructional materials for GATE students.

## *Academic Talent Search (ATS)*

It is time for GATE students to consider taking the annual ATS test (College Ability Test). ATS is a program offered by colleges to allow 6<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> grade students to take summer classes on campus. Students who take the ATS test will be eligible to take classes at California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) over the summer. These are challenging high-interest courses. Some examples from past programs include: Web Design, Forensic Science, Beginning Animation, Bridge Design & Construction, Performing Arts – Improvisation and Comedy, as well as classes in math, writing, art, study skills, and more. Super Saturday classes are also offered in the spring and may be of particular interest to year-round students who do not have the summer off from school.

There is a modest fee for taking the test and students must have a permission slip signed by a parent or guardian in order to participate. All students who take the test are eligible (but not obligated) to sign up for classes. Since some classes have minimum qualifying scores, more options are open to students who do very well on the test. Testing for students will be conducted by ATS at CSUS. You may call ATS at (916) 278-7032 to schedule a testing date and time. ATS will be testing on February 24, March 10 and March 17.

**Please Note:** If you would like to find out more about the Academic Talent Search you can go online to: [www.edweb.csus.edu/Projects/ATS](http://www.edweb.csus.edu/Projects/ATS)