
MH GATE UPDATE

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*The MH GATE Update will be mailed to parents of GATE Students on a semi-annual basis starting the 2011-12 school year.
The MH GATE Update will be available to all parents on a semi-annual basis through the school office and on the district website.*

Nelson Wilks Herron

By: Cristy Neighbors, Teacher of the Gifted

In grades 1-2, all students are offered whole group instruction for 30 minutes per week with a certified GT Facilitator. The GT Facilitator is responsible for developing creative and critical thinking skills. As well as an introduction to research and affective education. 1st and 2nd graders participate in the school recycling program which provides a partnership between school, community, and home. This community based project helps to prepare students to be contributing citizens in the 21st century. To evaluate the effectiveness of the curriculum and acceleration, focus groups are formed with stakeholders and these groups provide ongoing feedback (use of frequency distribution) to the GT Facilitator and Director in order to make data driven decisions. In 2nd grade, "Great Group" is a high ability and potentially gifted group of students that meets 30 minutes per week in a flexible group setting. Students are provided challenging activities with peers. Also, the "Junior Great Books Group" involves students at the highest achieving reading levels (5.5 reading level or above). This group meets 4 days a week for a total of two (2) hours with the GT Facilitator. Another extension, all 2nd graders are able to participate in a chess club.

Hackler Happenings

By: Marsha Partney, Teacher of the Gifted

In Grades 3-7, the Gifted Education Department offers four (4) program options to identified students. The GT options include gifted grouping in the regular classroom, co-teaching, consultant method, and GT Education Resource Rooms. To evaluate the effectiveness of the curriculum, focus groups provide input to the GT Facilitator and Director. We utilize subjective and objective data. We conduct a frequency distribution of number of times a particular topic is shared in the focus group. Grades 3-5 students participate in interest inventories. The curriculum is developed around their interest with a focus on critical thinking, research, independent study and inquiry. Students experience a wide variety of product development. In Grades 3-7, because of our program options, students are able to be innovative and instruction is differentiated. For example, in 4th Grade, the GT Facilitator co-taught in the science regular classroom where GT Students are clustered during the eco-system unit. This unit of study was extended into a cave eco-system unit in the GT resource room. Which was a student centered project which was driven by student interests. Students extensively researched caves with a variety in process and product. The outcome is a life-size cave that will be placed on the school stage. This life size cave model will be a museum exhibit that all students can walk through along with an audio tour simulating an actual cave. This integrated project also supports community learning and enhances learning for all students in the school building.

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Pinkston Middle School

By: Kristi Nelson, Teacher of the Gifted

Grades 6-7, two additional programs are offered. GT Students are offered an accelerated math/problem solving class in 6th grade, and Pre-AP Pre-Algebra for 7th grade. The second option is a GT elective class for grades 6-7 that meets each day for 50 minutes. The GT Facilitator provides resources and creates activities as well as maintains a portfolio which aides in early identification of potentially gifted students and through the grades.

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HOW MANY PRE-AP/AP COURSES DOES MHPS OFFER IN GRADES 7-12? BY: DR. GIGLIOTTI, DIRECTOR OF GIFTED AND TALENTED ED. (GATE)

23! WE ALSO OFFER ONE COURSE WITH ARKANSAS VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOL.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPECIAL EVENT: PARENT INFORMATIONAL MEETING

GRADES K-12

WHEN: MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2011

PLACE: CENTRAL OFFICE BOARD ROOM

TIME: 1:30-2:30PM

“Unwrapping the Gifts of the Talented”

Your Input is Needed – GATE Surveys

GATE Surveys are available to students, parents, teachers, and administrators. Your input is valued. The survey is voluntary. If you would like to provide input, please visit the district website at http://bombers.k12.ar.us/gate/survey/survey_index.htm.

Happy Holidays!



From the GATE Faculty