

GATE Newsletter

USD 382

Fall 2008 Edition

Want to
volunteer for a
committee
project? Have
questions? Call
672-4500.

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.usd382.com

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2008-09 school year! I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. We are pleased to announce Adele Loomis as the student editor. She has done a great job of compiling articles and designing layout. Many thanks go to Adele for her time and effort, and also Mrs. Piester and Mr. Wamhoff for their many contributions.

The Kansas State Department of Education announced that Haskins, Southwest and PHS have received Standard of Excellence awards for state math assessment scores. Southwest, Liberty, and PHS garnered awards for their reading assessment scores, a recognition that represents a team effort among dedicated administrators, teachers, and students.

The Gifted and Talented Parent Advisory committee met in September to discuss yearly goals. The Spring Showcase will continue, and the committee is seeking summer enrichment opportunities for our students and recruiting students for these opportunities.

Please support the advisory committee's scholarship fund by joining the GATE Parents Association. Your membership fee of \$10.00 will be used to support all student activities. Send your check to Anne Loomis, treasurer.

Sincerely,

Suzan Patton, USD 382 Director of Curriculum

Test Out

One LMS student will attempt to test out of 8th grade English this year. The test out policy allows high school and middle school students to test out of one single credit required or prerequisite course each year. Elementary students may test out of one grade level. There are deadlines for application and completion of the test out requirements. Contact Mr. Wamhoff or Mrs. Piester for more information.

Elementary GATE and Ripple News

Research

Elementary GATE and Ripple students are into research! They are working on three projects to find and document information about wild animals, great artists, and conservation topics. Students are learning to use a new search engine at <www.cuil.com>. (Cuil, pronounced “cool”, is Gaelic for “knowledge.”)

To strengthen their research skills, students select a reference book, study it, and learn how to use it. They write questions about the book using Bloom’s Hierarchy of Questions: Knowledge, Comprehension, Application, Analysis, Synthesis, and Evaluation. Some of the questions that their classmates will answer are:

- Knowledge: Tell how long it takes for a baby hippo to be able to walk.
- Comprehension: Look up what is found in a bunny’s ear that is produced by sunlight.
- Synthesis: Write a song about what the world would be like if there were no diseases.

Conservation Posters

Several students chose to complete Conservation Posters for the local contest. A few themes were:

- “Conserving Soil Helps Save the Earth...and You can Take That to the Bank!”
- “Conservation Opens the Door to a Great Planet!”
- “Light Up for Conservation”
- “Help our Farmers...Join the Conservation Club”

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Katie Buhler! She was selected for the second year in a row as a winner in the Kansas Authors Club contest. She received her recognition at the annual “Come West and Go Wild with Words” convention in Dodge City. Great work, Katie!

LMS GATE and Ripple News

Annual Brainstorm Competition

The GATE program sponsored Liberty Middle School's Brainstorm Competition. Forty-two teams took the qualifying test. The top sixteen teams were contenders in the competition, held from September 30th to October 3rd. The Wookies—Anthony Cannata, Sam Eastes, Thomas Mayberry, and Jonathan Schotte—defeated the Airheads—Cassidy Cronister, Jaci Kolm, Morgan Strong, and Adele Loomis—for the championship.

Several high school GATE and Ripple students assisted the GATE staff by writing questions and helping with the rounds of the competition. Their help was greatly appreciated.

Other LMS competitions sponsored by the GATE program are the National Geographic Bee in December and the LMS Math Strategies competition in February.

LMS Seminars By Payton Hoeme

Besides annual seminars like mindbenders and vocabulary, there are new seminars that are scheduled at LMS. Some are Election 2008, Comparative Religions, Forensic Science, Advertising, and Clay Animation. Middle school and high school students will collaborate on a project involving African American achievements.

Independent Studies

By Sam Eastes

Many LMS GATE students have already completed independent studies. Students choose a topic that they're interested in, then plan a strategy and research the topic. A bibliography must be included. Finally, students demonstrate what they have learned. Some interesting products are a space flight IQ test, dissecting a squid, history factoids, and even a rap song about Abraham Lincoln!

Sixth Grade Research Seminar

By Jade A. Hoover

The sixth grade students completed a research seminar. We started by brainstorming sources of information and learned to organize information on research cards. We located info from many sources. We were busy bees, because then we had to complete a topic web. We also learned to make a bibliography. (It was not very fun but useful.) One of the funniest things that we did was complete a multiple intelligence survey, in which you learned what your strengths and talents are, such as my strengths being spatial, linguistic, interpersonal, and kinesthetic. But I am not especially mathematical or musical. Finally, we learned about Bloom's Taxonomy. It includes learning levels such as knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.

PHS Gate and Ripple News

ACT Prep

Several GATE and Ripple students are completing ACT prep work for either the October 25th test or the December 13th test. Some have chosen to complete on-line prep, while others are completing prep work using Barron's ACT CD or through bookworks. Four seniors have elected to complete the work during one of the four blocks because it was difficult for them to enroll in an appropriate class. Once the prep work has been completed those students will complete additional work that has been defined through their IEP or Ripple contract.

Mr. Blankenship has organized an ACT prep seminar. Students have already been provided introductory information and suggestions. Mrs. Phillippi from the math and Mr. Kahmeyer and Mrs. Beilman from the English department will provide direct instruction related to the ACT. PHS seminar time will be used for the direct instruction.

ACT Test Dates

Registration Date

November 7, 2008

January 6, 2009

February 27, 2009

May 8, 2009

Late Fee Registration

November 8-20, 2008

January 7-16, 2009

Feb. 28 – Mar. 13, 2009

May 9-22, 2009

Test Date

December 13, 2008

February 7, 2009

April 4, 2009

Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Sciences

The Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science (KAMS), established by legislative action in 2006 by SB139, will be the state's premier academic high school program for the state's best and brightest high school students. Based in part after successful programs in Missouri and Texas, KAMS will be a unique residential learning experience that provides exceptional high school juniors and seniors a potent blend of

- * college-level instruction by PhD faculty;
- * a high school diploma and 72 hours of college credit;
- * the option to receive an associate's degree upon graduation;
- * hands-on research supervised by PhD scientists;
- * leadership development and civic engagement opportunities;
- * co-curricular and extra-curricular opportunities to develop the whole student;
- * a safe campus and residential environment; and trained support staff.

KAMS will begin recruiting students in fall 2008, once funding is made available, with an anticipated first class of 40 Kansas juniors enrolling in fall 2009. These exceptional students will represent urban, suburban, and rural communities from across the state. Prospective students must have completed at least two years of high school with distinction in mathematics or science. However, outstanding academic achievement is not the only criterion for acceptance. KAMS will select students based on drive, interest, maturity, stability, and personal and family commitment.

For additional information, contact Mr. Wamhoff or access <www.fhsu.edu/kams>. This official site provides additional information about the curriculum and an application available for download.