

PVES' GATE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

We are excited to be recognized as having an exemplary GATE program. The three district requirements of an exemplary GATE program are to have specific learning opportunities and instruction the includes the following:

1. Implementation of depth, complexity, novelty, and acceleration.
2. Programs and services to support social-emotional needs of gifted/talented learners.
3. The use of instructional technology to develop 21st Century Skills (communication, creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration).

At PVES, our GATE program is organized so that each upper grade classroom, 3rd through 5th, has a cluster of GATE students. The number is dependent on the total of GATE students in a particular grade level. This is the widely-used cluster and takes place in the classroom during the normal instructional day. It occurs alongside and involves all PVES students. Here at PVES we are so fortunate to have a curriculum developer who works alongside our teachers to create, plan, teach, and evaluate STEM lessons that incorporate the 21st Century Skills giving students the opportunity to meet and exceed the Next Generation Science Standards and grade level content standards. In essence, all students benefit from our curriculum design, a design that is considered best practices in gifted education. These lessons also allow for final products that often involve student choice of format and vary to accommodate for students' diverse learning styles and preferences.

Each teacher will know who their GATE identified students are and will plan accordingly. In addition to involving them in our STEM curriculum, teachers will find ways to challenge each GATE student. They will deepen their knowledge and thinking about topics by creating unique activity prompts that address depth and complexity of subject matter and plan effective questions that allow students to use higher levels of thinking. When appropriate, students may be grouped in homogeneous or heterogeneous groups for specific instruction. Grouping is fluid and flexible throughout the year. A GATE coordinator supports the teachers' ongoing learning of instructional strategies that benefit gifted/talented students.

Technology is used by teachers to enhance instruction. It is strategically used to accelerate when appropriate or to allow GATE students to work at their current level. Teachers promote students' continued growth through the use of Front Row and Think CERCA for both differentiated reading of nonfiction texts, writing and leveled practice in all strands of math. Other sites used for differentiated instruction are SumDog, No Red Ink, News ELA, Accelerated Reader, Kahn Academy, TenMarks, Nearpod, and many others.

We look forward to supporting all of our GATE students and promoting their continued growth intellectually while engaging in our outstanding STEM curriculum and enrichment programs made possible by your generous support.