

On the Budget Front

As many of you are aware, the State of California is experiencing severe economic times. Recent state budget actions have resulted in over \$2.3 billion cuts to education. As part of these cuts the state will substantially cut certain state categorical programs. GATE is one of the categoricals that will be impacted by this loss of funding. In determining which programs will be cut, the state has broken each categorical program into one of three categories called Tiers. GATE falls into the Tier III category which means that the GATE budget will be cut 15.4% this year and another 4.5% next school year which totals a 20% cut over two years. Programs in Tier III are also allowed "full flexibility". This means that the District can choose to move the funding out of the GATE categorical and use it for any educational purpose.

Superintendent, Dr. Thomas Lohwasser and the Dixie Board of Education feel strongly about securing the GATE funding for the population in which it was intended and they have indicated that the funding will not be moved.

That being said, the 2008-09 allocation was only \$15,868 before the mandatory cuts. We will continue to be very resourceful and intend to use that money directly for the students through classroom teacher education, Discovery Days and resources for the GATE students.

There are things to celebrate! Seventy two GATE students took advantage of the Discovery Days and we have received great comments from students and parents alike.



GATE Committee

The Dixie District is proud of the commitment of the GATE Committee which is comprised of a representative from each school (parents, teachers, administrators, community members). The committee is chaired by the Director of Educational Services who works with the GATE Site Coordinators (teachers) to plan the meetings, set agendas, and disseminate materials.

The next meeting will be on April 6th from 3:30-4:30pm in the District office Board Room. The topic will be the spring 2007-08 GATE parent survey. Committee members will be notified by e-mail.



Discovery Days

We offered a rich variety of GATE classes this year and added several new classes in response to parent input. Many classes were at capacity attesting to

student interest in gaining new skills and experiences.

New classes:

- Spanish Language & Culture
- Radical Roots
- Nature's Geometry
- Junior Great Books
- Geometry Alive

We will be presenting a summary of this year's GATE program at an upcoming board meeting. We will let you know when the date has been set.



Web Site as a Resource

If you haven't checked out the District web site yet, please take a moment to visit the GATE page at <http://dixiesd.marin.k12.ca.us/gate.htm>



Summer 2009

Summer is right around the corner and this newsletter a list of some summer opportunities for your GATE student.

Lawrence Hall of Science (LHS) Summer Science Camps

LHS offers summer science for students age four through grade 12 from June 15–August 21. Registration is currently open. Visit the LHS web page for more details.

www.lawrencehallofscience.org/classes/camps.html

Dominican University Summer Odyssey

Dominican Univ. offers summer programs for gifted students. Summer Odyssey is scheduled for July 20–July 31, 2009. Visit www.dominican.edu/academics/ to see the curriculum and registration information for 2009 (click on Special Programs then the Summer Odyssey link. They may also be contacted at 415-458-3712 or odyssey@dominican.edu. Application must be postmarked by May 15, 2009.

Sonoma State University Excel

Sonoma State will be offering summer sessions for 2009. A class schedule will be posted on their web page by the second week of March (not posted as of this writing).

www.sonoma.edu/exed/excel/summerncatalog.html



Over

EPGY Summer Institutes

Stanford University's ERGY (Education Program for Gifted Youth) Summer Institutes are two-to-four-week residential programs for academically talented and motivated middle and high school students. The Summer Institutes provide an opportunity for students to pursue their intellectual curiosity and meet others who share their interests and abilities. Participants are enrolled in a single intensive-study course, taught by a Stanford instructor, and covering topics not typically presented at their grade level. Applications are being accepted now. Visit their web page <http://epgy.stanford.edu/summer/> to submit a preliminary application – or call 800-372-3749 ext. 325.

University of Oregon Summer Enrichment Program

SEP is a residential academic enrichment summer school program for grades 6-10 held on the Univ. of Oregon main campus. Attending students largely create their own camp experience, selecting a slate of six courses from an extensive list of options, and organizing their social hours around interests and activities of their choice. The program is also an excellent opportunity for early exposure to living and learning in a college environment, and often serves to inspire or reinforce a student's interest in pursuing a higher education. Session 1 runs July 5 - July 18 and Session 2 is July 19 - August 1, 2009. Full and partial need-based scholarships to SEP are available. Applications must be completed and received by May 15, 2009 to receive first-round consideration for admissions. For more information visit www.uoyouth.org or call (541) 346-1405.

Choate Rosemary Hall Summer Programs

Choate Rosemary Hall school offers two-, four-, and five-week programs for students entering grades 6-9 and 10-12. Programs include math, science, language arts and writing. Choate Rosemary Hall is located near New Haven, CT, mid-way between Boston and New York. For more information, call (203) 697-2365 or visit www.choate.edu/summerprograms.

Summer Institute for the Gifted (SIG) - UC Berkeley

The SIG program is a residential three-week program for students in grades 4-11. Students have a choice of two sessions. The application deadline is May 1, 2009. For more information call (800) 593-1241 or visit www.giftedstudy.com/residential/berkeley/. SIG also offers programs at UCLA, University of Texas-Austin and several east coast colleges. For more information visit www.giftedstudy.com.

Exeter Summer School

Exeter offers a five-week program (July 5–August 8, 2009) of accelerated study for students entering eighth or ninth grade. For more information visit www.exeter.edu/summer or call (603) 777-3488.

Education Unlimited

Education Unlimited provides residential and commuter summer camps, summer programs and summer study opportunities for students entering grades 4-12. In addition to two southern CA locations, they offer summer programs at Stanford University and Palo Alto High School and in the East Bay at UC Berkeley. Visit their web site for more information www.educationunlimited.com or call 510-548-6612.

Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth

CTY offers summer residential and day programs on the east and west coasts for qualified students in grades 2-12. Eligibility for the program is based on what grade the student has completed, as well as his/her score on the CTY-administered SCAT test. Visit <http://cty.jhu.edu/summer/summer-programs.html> for more information.

