

J A N U A R Y 2 0 1 5

GATE Newsletter

From the GATE Office

After only a few days back in the office, I feel that the glow of two weeks' vacation is beginning to wear off. Hopefully that is not the case for you. We're in the midst of preparing for 1st grade GATE Screening (begins at all schools on January 20th), and see 3rd grade GATE Screening looming on the horizon. 3rd grade teachers, know that we will be enlisting your support in nominating students for GATE (CogAT) testing. Nomination forms are available on the GATE Website (see article on right).

GATE Certificate courses will shift gears as we move through winter and into spring. We'll move away from our focus on differentiation strategies and into a series of special topic classes looking at the unique challenges surrounding these special learners.

Finally, with our December All GATE teacher meeting, we concluded this year's series of trainings around William and Mary. If you and/or your colleagues would like additional support, please e-mail me and we'll schedule site based or one-on-one trainings.

~ Kari

Kari-Hanson-Smith@scusd.edu

Teacher Resources now on GATE Website

As our GATE team grows, so does the quantity of resources that we have to share with each other. Previously these documents have been hosted on the district's /U/ Drive server; however that has become antiquated, and is no longer a functional place to store the teaching tools you need in your classrooms. By visiting the following website, <http://www.scusd.edu/gate> you will now be able to access resources for:

- William and Mary (including all of the Navigators)
- Differentiation
- Presentations from meetings
- GATE Certificate Course support
- Monthly newsletters
- Schoolwide Cluster Grouping Model Information
- GATE Identification nomination forms.

You will be required to Log-in using your standard SCUSD username and password (the one you already use for your e-mail).

Teachers are strongly encouraged to share lessons, learning activities, and student work samples with the GATE Office, these will be vetted and potentially shared on the website.

Save the Date!

**District GATE
Advisory Council
Jan. 20th 5:30 Bidwell**

This council consists of parents, teachers and administrators; it is the forum through which we share information

**6th GATE
Certificate Class
Jan. 27th 3:45 Serna**

Gifted English Learners & Diverse Populations. Co-Facilitated with the Multi-lingual department.

**All GATE Teacher
Meeting- Math Focus
Feb. 10th 3:30 Serna**

One of 3 mid-year meetings designed to support teachers in meeting the needs of GATE students.

ELA Curriculum Connections: Core Ready and William & Mary

January through June, teachers in GATE service classrooms will use the William and Mary curriculum units as the primary content for their ELA instruction. Teachers in grades 3-6 will find that with two notable exceptions, the William and Mary units address the necessary Common Core Standards and provide the necessary opportunities for rigorous content essential to a GATE classroom. Teachers are not expected to simultaneously instruct using the Core Ready (Pam Allyn) Lesson Sets (AKA: The Binders). However, teachers will find that the classroom process for learning and the learning environments they established while using Core Ready are helpful, even essential, to successfully teaching William and Mary.

Standards Not Covered:

The William and Mary Units do not address curricular needs surrounding Language Standards 1-3 and to some extent 4-6, or Writing Standard 3 (Narrative Writing). Additionally, the William and Mary units are not designed to provide phonics instruction (Foundational Skills 1-4) in grades 2-5.

How do we cover what was missed?

To address the gap in both Language Standards and Foundational Skills, teachers may wish to use the “Green Section” from Open Court.

To address the gap in Narrative writing, teachers may wish to use the Core Ready Lesson Set, “Journey to Meaning.” (*Likely already taught during the fall*).

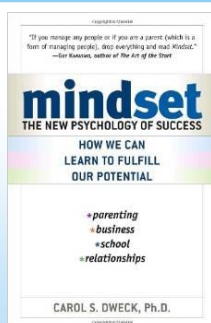
Keep what you established

Many of the classroom processes through which you taught curriculum during the fall (using Core Ready) are the same as you will use for the rest of the year:

- *Emphasis on student centered learning featuring Academic Collaboration, small groups, and flexible grouping.*
- *Students developing stamina through independent reading.*
- *Instructional strategies including: “whole, small, whole”; single teaching points, writer’s journals, reader’s journals, literature circles*

2nd grade Details

Unfortunately the Beyond Words unit, does NOT address enough Common Core standards for exclusive use. Instead it should be used as an enrichment opportunity, paced at the teacher’s discretion. (*The goal being to use as much of it as possible*) 2nd grade teachers may benefit from continued use of Core Ready and the Green Section of Open Court. If you have individual questions about implementation, contact Kari



GATE Teacher Book Club

Are you looking for a good book to read? The NAGC convention in Baltimore was buzzing with conversations and sessions on Carol Dweck, Ph.D.’s book Mindset. There are so many connections for helping classroom teachers build and sustain stamina for learning in their students. Dr. Dweck proposes that as learners we all have either a fixed or a growth mindset. How do we help our students develop growth mindsets, so that they are successful in the 21st Century? Perhaps this is a book you and your colleagues might enjoy reading together.