



May 2024

ELP Newsletter

Supervisor's Note

Another school year is done!

The ELP Department has been focusing on maximizing the scope of talent we can reach and intensifying passion and interest in our students.

There are some great summer enrichment suggestions to continue to foster the spark in your student.

Also, look to the photos to see the variety of experiences our students get. Use them as inspiration to connect with at home - and to bring even more into our classrooms.

Have a great summer and we will see you next year.

- Dr. Alex Parsons

Upcoming Events

June 11-12

UAGC Summer Conference

uagc.org for details

Both teachers and parents are invited to attend

July 31st

Magnet appeals due

Form on ELP Website

Engaging Gifted Students During Summer Vacation

Gifted learners tend to have an intense need for intellectual stimulation—and that need doesn't disappear when the school year ends. In addition to their insatiable curiosity, gifted children often face unique social challenges. Here are 4 ways to address the special needs of your gifted child:

#1: Provide Cultural & Learning Experiences

Summer days offer many opportunities to expose your gifted child to art, history, science, and other extracurricular learning activities. Take advantage of nearby institutions such as museums, theaters, science centers, and planetariums to ensure that your child enjoys a wide variety of cultural and learning experiences.

If you have the time, consider planning day trips or vacations to new places. Include visits to historical sites, particularly those that offer guided tours. Encourage your gifted child to examine the exhibits carefully and ask questions of the tour guides. Once you're back home, your child can continue to learn about the places you've visited via books and websites.

Closer to home, public libraries offer a plethora of resources for parents and families. Library programs are generally free and can include informal book clubs, writing groups, and makerspaces, designated areas where patrons can explore new ideas and materials. Many libraries post events calendars on their websites, which can serve as fruitful sources of fascinating activities.

#2: Work on a Summer Project

Your gifted child may have his or her own ideas for a personal project, and summer could be the perfect time to make it happen. Writing a novella, animating a short film, or designing and building a simple robot are all feasible projects for the summer months.

Look for contests in your child's special field of interest, such as a writing, a game designing, or an art contest. The sense of competition can add to the fun and spur children on to do their best work and complete projects.

#3: Consider a Special-Interest Summer Camp

Summer camp is a time-honored tradition. In recent years, summer camps have grown beyond camping, hiking, canoeing, and telling tales around the campfire. Newer, specialized camps cater to a wide variety of interests.

If you have a gifted child, the benefits of a specialized summer camp can be two-fold. First of all, these camps allow your child to explore a favorite subject in-depth and gain some hands-on experience learning and creating. Secondly, your child will have the opportunity to communicate with peers who share a similar enthusiasm for a particular topic, which can help to build social skills and even spark long-term friendships.

#4: Offer Home Improvement Opportunities

The National Association for Gifted Children recommends involving your child in household activities as a way to get him or her thinking beyond the boundaries of the classroom. These endeavors might include cooking, landscaping, and room redesign.

If your child is interested in science and technology, you could work together to figure out the best ways to save energy in your household. Your cyber-savvy child might have some suggestions for building and securing your home computer network. Ecologically minded children may enjoy setting up a composting station or working to reduce household waste. Through these activities, your gifted child will learn to work with real-life constraints such as time and budget.

By Michelle Baumgartner

ELP Excellence in Action

Intellectual



Congratulations to Ben, Sam, Ella, Credence, and Jack in Mrs. Dotterweich's 5th grade magnet G/T class for placing at Future Problem Solving State Bowl! They placed 2nd for Junior Presentation of Action Plan and Honorable Mention for individual creative scenario writing entries on the topics of Antarctica and Autonomous Transportation.

Also, congratulations to Wasatch Elementary 6th Graders, Lewis, Matilda, Avery and Max, who placed 5th in the Utah State Future Problem Solving Affiliate Bowl.



5th and 6th grade students from Mrs. Jensen's Magnet/DLI Class participated in State Debate on May 3 at Alta High School. DeVere Fogarty and Cassius Hitchcock placed 10th for Affirmative, Alison Yarbrough and Ashanty Torres went undefeated and placed 4th in Affirmative, and Ilanka Orellana and Gloria Swensen placed 6th for the Negative team. Alison Yarbrough also received a Superior Speaker award.



Ms. Haslam's MELP 2nd grade class at Whittier celebrates end-of-testing success by coding Ozobot robots. Their goal is get their robot from one end of the trail to the other while performing various tasks coded to them.



Terri Rasmussen's 5th grade AAMP students at Beacon Heights analyzed real bridges, looking for structural patterns. Then, in teams, they created their own bridge blueprints and built models of their bridge. Next, the class explored Eulerian's Path and the 7 Bridges of Konigsberg problem.

Academic



Mrs. Henderson's 6th grade class at Hawthorne launches model rockets in conjunction with our science unit. They used trigonometry to find the height of the rockets. We talked about circuitry for engineering and technology. It's literally Rocket science and STEM!

Kristy Johnson's 3rd Grade Discovery Group students at Dilworth and Bonneville collaborated to identify the best solution to lay carpet in a 23' x 13' room. They could only purchase carpet in 100 square feet, and they needed to consider cost and the number of seams when defending their best solution.





Parkview students participated in a Chemistry in the Kitchen unit!



Second grade students in Ms. Kelly's class at Hawthorne wrote, produced, and performed an opera with the goal of bringing awareness to plastic pollution in the ocean and coral reefs. They are now researching this problem and posing solutions to mitigate human impact on marine life.



Creativity

Mrs. Hurst's AAMP students at Emerson researched birds and created scientific models. They also participated in various creative writing activities, composing myths, fables, or fairy tales starring their birds.



5th and 6th Graders in Kristy Johnson's AAMP classes at Bonneville and Dilworth Elementary are collaboratively researching and creating Informational Interactive STEAM Books centered on an academic topic.



Ms. Phillipps' 5th grade AAMP students at Mountain View and 5th and 6th grade AAMP students at Escalante designed and constructed rubber band cars to compete in this year's Science Buddies Engineering Challenge. They learned about the steps in the Engineering Design Process and the importance of determination and perseverance.

Mentorship



Visiting the modern workspace The Industry, Mr. Castillo's and Mrs. Dotterweich's classes at Washington Elementary discovered the newest technology of snow ski making. Taking a full tour of its manufacturing facility and interviewing different employees about their specialized job roles, students learned more about the engineering and production process at DPS Skis. They also spent some time with a designer at WildWorks video game company.

Leadership



Kathy Gilmour's 6th graders at Newman started a leadership group as well as a chess club.



Riego Castillo's 4th graders and Mrs. Dotterweich's 5th graders at Washington had a retired public defender help organize a mock trial. They had a private tour of the Salt Lake Courthouse, had a Q&A with a Judge, and the kids acted out their trial in an actual courtroom.