



ELP Newsletter

Supervisor's Note

What a great year for ELP! Even though there are many changes, both with the district and with the ELP program, our focus and commitment to giving children a profound experience remains. Note the updates on our programs, and especially enjoy the great work our teachers and students are doing.

-Dr. Alex Parsons



Events Coming Up



Feb 10th

UAGC Winter
Symposium

uagc.org for details



May 5th

Magnet
Appeals Due
Form on ELP
Website



**Middle School
Open Houses**

Clayton 1-23-24

Bryant 1-11-24

Glendale TBD

Hillside 1-25-24

Northwest 5-16-24

West 1-17-24

(Shadowing Dates for those
who offer that are on the
ELP Website)

Testing

- SLCSD K & 3rd students will be assessed in March - no sign-up needed
- The sign-up for non-SLCSD & Open Classroom K, 3rd, & any 6th/7th interested in MS, is available on the ELP website. Due by Jan 31, 2024





Changes, Add-ons, and Progress

The power of gifted and talented opportunities is seeing our students become confident, prepared, and innovative adults. Which means, gifted programs must also be innovative and adaptive to the needs of students and their future.

Innovation can be uncomfortable, but that discomfort should not stop us from trying to reach for more for our students. Especially in a post-COVID pandemic world, we are more aware of the feelings about change - but also the necessity of it.

A few changes, progress, and edits have happened in the ELP Department. Some seem small, and all are intended to innovate the programs we offer. Look to more changes and details as we continue to grow and transform the lives of our students.

If you have questions, please visit the ELP website or call the ELP office.



Name Changes

ELP Department Name Changes

The ELP Department has renamed some of our programs. We did this, in support of our stakeholder group, to provide clarity to our services by better following national trends and describing the service appropriately. The name change is not a change in the service itself, rather how we describe the service.

Magnet ELP (MELP)
is renaming to
Magnet Gifted & Talented

The phrase 'Gifted & Talented' is a nationally recognized phrase that best communicates the philosophy and goal of the program.

All service components of the program are the same.

Neighborhood ELP (NELP)
is renaming to
Advanced Academics & Mentorship Program (AAMP)

The name better communicates what the program offers. Also, as a program in every elementary school, the engaging acronym will encourage participation in advanced academics.

All service components of the program are the same.

What does this mean for my student in one of these programs?

All service components of the program are the same. All students already in each program will remain in each program. The name change does not affect eligibility.

Reach out to the ELP Department with questions.



Magnet Kindergarten Changes

The Magnet Gifted & Talented program (previously Magnet Extended Learning Program) is a long-standing program that provides more rigorous experiences to SLCSO's exceptionally talented students.

Part of any robust program are regular reviews of impact, student outcomes, and overall evaluation. The ELP Department reviewed the data and academic impact of a kindergarten entry point to the Magnet G/T program. The focus of the review and evaluation was to determine if starting the program in kindergarten had significant impacts on both short- and long-term outcomes for the students in the program. Overall, the evaluation determined that there are no differences between the outcomes of students who join Magnet G/T in kindergarten and those who join in 1st grade.

A first-grade entry point to Magnet G/T will give all our high ability students the benefit of a strong foundation in social emotional learning and allow your student to have the best opportunity to adjust to a gifted classroom. It will also provide a more accurate profile of student strengths through the growth students have during their time in a kindergarten classroom.

As a result of this program evaluation of Magnet G/T kindergarten, we are no longer continuing with our Magnet G/T kindergarten classrooms. The Magnet G/T program will start in 1st grade. SLCSO will not assess Pre-K students for Magnet G/T assignment.

SLCSO will continue with automatic district-wide assessment of kindergarten students enrolled in an SLCSO kindergarten classroom for Magnet G/T assignment in 1st grade. We also offer opt-in kindergarten testing sessions for families not enrolled in SLCSO but who are interested in our Magnet G/T program.



Middle School Advanced Academics

Middle school is a formative pre-high school experience that shapes and informs what a student achieves and participates in during their high school time. This means that middle school should reflect the choice, challenge, and opportunity that is available to them in high school.

Edits to middle school options for advanced coursework is in progress to better reflect high school and prepare students for those high school opportunities. More specific details will be available soon.

ELP Excellence in Action

Intellectual



Kristy Johnson's 4th grade AAMP students at Bonneville and Dilworth learn deductive reasoning from The Great Chocolate Caper. They solve logic puzzles, decode messages, use the process of elimination, and piece together evidence to solve the mystery.



At Rose Park Elementary, Shannon King's 5th grade AAMP students help 3rd graders hone intellectual skills with a logic puzzle.



This is the tree Escalante kindergartners are studying throughout the year with AAMP teacher Trieste Phillips. They learned the science of how leaves change colors, discovered how veins work, and more.



Whittier's 1st-grade Magnet G/T students discover constellations in Chyi-Ing Lewis' class.



Visual/Performing Arts



In conjunction with the Advanced Academics and Mentorship Program name change, AAMP students throughout the district have submitted logos for a rebranding contest.



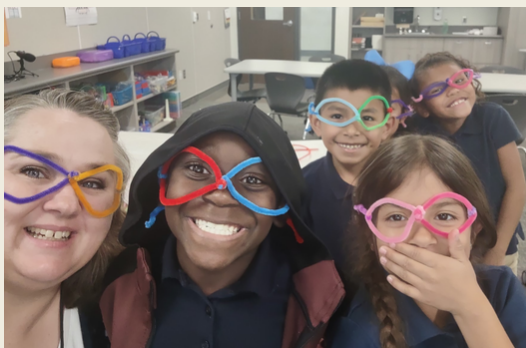
Cammy Haroldsen's 6th grade AAMP students created "rehearsed improv" sketches as part of a "Choice Exploration" in the artistic domain with guidance from the school's performing arts teacher.



Parkview 4th and 5th graders in Cher Sten's AAMP class are embarking on a transformative art unit titled "I Am: An Exploration of Self" that intertwines visual arts and creative writing into an investigation of their personal identity. Their abstract artwork and poetry will be a new permanent fixture at Parkview, honoring students' unique perspectives.

Creativity

Thanks to the STEM Action Center's curriculum kits, Washington's Magnet G/T 4th and 5th graders have been learning to design, slice, and print their own 3D models with Solid Edge this November. Mrs. Dotterweich's 5th grade students brought their previous experience and knowledge of additive manufacturing to Mr. Castillo's 4th graders as they problem solve and apply their math skills to the design process.



Teaching Primary Education Thinking Skills to students, AAMP teacher Sarah Kelley makes "brainfocals" with 2nd and 3rd graders at Edison to help them see the world in new and inventive ways.



At Whittier, Cathy Bigler's 5th grade Magnet students worked together on creative problem solving a natural disaster phenomenon. The students had to figure out how to save the historical buildings in a town from flooding during a hurricane. Each group was given a 1-million-dollar budget and 4 different options: seawalls, levees, homes on stilts, and wetlands. They had to decide which combination of options would best save the buildings, while staying within the budget.



The most recent creative design project for students in Kristi Richards' classes at Ensign Elementary is the egg drop. In this engineering project, students were asked to construct a container to keep a raw egg from cracking when dropped from ever-increasing elevations.



4th-6th Grade AAMP at Hawthorne discover different careers and fields of study in their Passion & Purpose: A Career Exploration Series. Katie Regier's students have learned what it takes to be a surgeon, an Emergency Room physician, and a commercial airline pilot. In November, they learned about communication, news media, and journalism with Debbie Dujanovic, broadcaster for KSL News Radio and KSL News, and her producer, Caitlyn Johnston.



As part of a career exploration unit, Washington Elementary Magnet 4th graders have hosted a variety of specialists, including a phlebotomist, a retired Naval pilot, and a computational social scientist. In this lesson on rheumatology, students were both fascinated and disgusted while using the ultrasound machine.



Salt Lake City School Board member Ashley Anderson leads Riego Castillo's Magnet 4th graders at Washington Elementary in debate research and work. With the new resolution out for this year's state debate competition, students are excitedly preparing.

Mentorship



Bennion's 4th-6th AAMP Leadership students took steps to eradicate bullying in their school, complete with posters, announcements, and student recess monitors. Becky Fox's leadership group also taught anti-bullying lessons to 1st-3rd graders.



Mary Lou Oland-Wong's 3rd grade students at Emerson Dual Language Magnet classroom have been developing teamwork by collaborating on levee plans to save their mock city from a hurricane disaster.