

4.0 Parent Comments

Please indicate enrichment activities that would interest your student:

- She's hoping to do Youth Educators - what about team captains for athletics? That is certainly a leadership opportunity.
- A high school chess team or club
- youth educator next year
- GATE students club
- Film club and/or computer graphics at PHS

In June 2011, the District will be submitting its GATE plan for renewal. What changes would you like considered by the GATE Advisory Committee or how would you like to see the District support our highest achieving students who are not GATE identified?

- I encourage you to make sure that any extra work or programs happen because the child is truly operating at a higher level than their peers, and needs extra challenge. The Piedmont school system is super-challenging already, and the atmosphere is unhealthily competitive. We could easily have a situation where parents push their child into extra academics that they would feel unhappy and stressed participating in.
- I do not have enough information about the GATE plan to suggest any changes. In terms of support on students who are not GATE identified, I think school/peer recognition of the student's achievements is important for non-GATE identified students. By recognizing their achievements, the students obtain satisfaction from knowing that their hard work has tangible results (the grades) and recognition. I strongly believe that this question should be asked of the students for their input too.
- Group these students together to form special study or interest group so they can interact with each other. School can also have some extra or more advanced materials for this group of students. School counselor can also give some special guidance to these gifted students that suit their needs.
- It would be great if the students got some form of recognition for their academic achievement even if they are not GATE identified.
- Please continue to offer the enrichment opportunities through the schools.
- PUSD does a great job overall but please focus on those who are gifted in ways that DON'T fit the traditional academic mold - visual thinkers and learners, young artists, the kinetically gifted, etc. These kids have to work extra hard to achieve academically and it is demoralizing for them when their amazing gifts go unrecognized, ignored or devalued ("oh, that's for extracurricular stuff"). True differentiation is to find ways that kids can leverage their wonderful individual gifts to achieve academically, at least some of the time.

GATE Parent Comments

If you are aware of differentiation occurring for your student, please list examples:

- My son was placed in a higher math class in sixth grade. Although he is very talented in math and science and other things, he struggles to feel talented in language arts. Technically he is very good. When it comes to writing, he is very measured and precise. The teachers have made him feel as though he deficient because they comment on how little he writes. He now has a stigma about being a good writer and is reluctant to write. I tire of trying to encourage him to write. What I have to respect in him is his economy of words. Mathematics is the most beautiful language for him. I wish teachers would help me encourage him in his style rather than criticize him. Test scores show he is capable. His personality, although charming at times is reserved.
- writing a 2 page essay instead of a paragraph (5th grade), writing an 18 page research paper on a very complex historic topic (8th grade), reading very sophisticated outside reading and discussing with English teacher (9th grade)
- Advanced math, music
- I am aware of advanced math but no others
- Back at Beach Elem, there was pull out math . . . mathletes in PMS is great . . .wish there were more opps for "math circles" via UCB. Wish there is a sanctioned robotics team. Wish there is a Model UN.
- she was offered the oportunity to skip Spanish IV and take AP Spanish, but this did not happen due to a scheduling conflict with another class that was only offered the same period as AP Spanish. This was very disappointing to my child and I would like to see the high school do a better job of organizing the classes to minimize this issue, especially for juniors and seniors
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- In 5th grade our student was given some differentiated instruction in Social Studies. My son very much wants to participate in Mathletes, but a program is not in place for this school year which is very disappointing to him.
- Many open-ended activities such as the civilization report in 6th grade and the I-search in 9th grade are inherently differentiated activities. Geometry teacher included many open-ended and challenging projects.
- I am not aware of any differentiation for my student. I remember that in elementary school in their reading groups, some kids read more difficult books than others (which would be differentiation), but I am not aware of anything similar in middle or high school.
- only in an elective where my son was asked to work/teach other students.
- Opportunities for individualized assignments, access to advanced math classesmath olympics, math enrichment
- AP& honor classes

- In 5th grade, my student was given more challenging writing assignments and she was also part of an Advanced Math group that did extra Math with math specialist in addition to the class assignments
- Math Enrichment/Math Olympiads in 5th grade at Havens
- Ability to select math problems on Geometry tests.
- Math and science naturally track themselves, although the District has a spotty record of separating accelerate

GATE Student Comments

What types of enrichment activities would you like to see offered?

- Film Club for PHS
- More elementary math enrichment. When I was in elementary school a long time ago I had a math program which really put me ahead and enabled me to flourish in Math throughout my school career.
- Model UN, National Forensic League?
- no idea
- Debate team
- Tracked classes all the way through high school