The G.A.T.E. Quarterly

Karen Tankersley
"Students must be taught to find the information they need, judge its worth, and think at higher levels."

Gifted Education

Your child(ren) is gifted every day, all day, not just on GATE class day/time.

We hope you are having a wonderful school year!
YOU make a difference!
~Ms. Swisher, Mr. Carter,
Mrs. Konty, and Mrs. Muniz

SECOND QUARTER EVENTS

October 22nd - Lego Mindstorm 6th-8th grades

October 27th - Scary Story Night at Harrison 6:00-7:00

November 3rd - Celebrate GATE! Night at Harrison 6:00 to 7:00.

Noetic Math Challenge - November 10th – November 17th

November 21st -25th - Thanksgiving Break

December 1st – PAGE Meeting

December 23 – January 9th – Christmas Vacation

January 10th – Six week SENG parenting class begins

For Parents

Parents, here are resources to help you better understand your gifted students:

Books
- *Living With Intensity* by Susan Daniels
- *Make Your Worrier Into A Warrior* by Dan Peters
- *Why Smart Kids Worry* by Allison Edwards
- When Gifted Kids Don't Have All The Answers by Jim Delisle

Articles on line @ http://www.byrdseed.com/parents/
- A video discussion on why gifted kids are different than just "smart kids"
- Does your gifted students seem anxious?
- Why your gifted kid probably shouldn't be tutoring other students in class.
- Gifted kids can be squirmy, fidgety, and have high energy.
- Be thoughtful about how you praise students.

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Quote to live by:

"There is a difference between talented people and gifted people. Talented people are good AT something; Gifted people ARE that something."

[Steve Maraboli](#)

For Educators
Abundance or Deficit Thinking?

Frames of mind referred to as "abundance" and "deficit" thinking.

- Abundance: There's always more out there. We can learn. We can improve.
- Deficit: I have to hold on to what I've got. It's all I'll ever have.

In some ways, they relate to the growth and fixed mindsets.

Abundance vs Deficit In Classrooms

There are teachers with both of these mindsets. You can probably picture colleagues of each type.

Deficit-minded teachers think:

- there's not enough time to do _____
- that won't work with *my* kids
- not *another* thing to learn
- we can't allow _____ because kids will abuse it
- taking a break wastes time
- that didn't work last time

Abundance-thinking teachers believe that:

- we'll *make* time for something important
- my kids can do this if I help them
- it's worth the effort to understand a new idea
- *some* kids *may* abuse _____ at first, but we'll work through it
- taking a break recharges us, so we can use our time better
- we'll make it work this time

Our thinking directly impacts the way we treat students, parents, and colleagues. Students will grow when you believe they can grow. Parents become allies rather than obstacles. Plus, it's just a lot more fun to be around someone who believes in abundance. ☺

For Students

What Does "Smart" Even Mean?

What Does "Smart" Mean?

Students think that "smart" kids:

- "know a lot"
- finish tests quickly
- are never called over by the teacher
- always have an answer
- don't make mistakes

But "easy" isn't what smart should mean! "Easy" often means you *already knew it!*

Smart (adj): having or showing a quick-witted intelligence.
Intelligence (noun): the ability to acquire and apply knowledge and skills.

It might be fun to have your class survey parents, friends, siblings, etc. and gather a bunch of definitions of "smart" to see what the patterns are.

If It's Easy, Don't Say "Smart"!

Finally, if something's easy for you, **do not** let people tell you that you're smart. Point out how easy it was, say thank you, but show them that you would rather work on something interesting *stat*.

Always "easy" is an educational emergency.

Have a blast challenging yourself to go beyond what you thought possible!