

Gifted Resource Site: Teacher Support is Just a Click Away!

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Gifted Resource Site Description

The Gifted Resource Site constitutes one school district department's efforts to train and support teachers in providing comprehensive and current curriculum, instruction, and assessment methods to their gifted and talented students. Paradise Valley Unified School District (PVUSD) is a large, K-12 district that embraces the spectrum of low to high SES schools, a substantial number of gifted students from diverse populations, and a variety of gifted programs. These factors underlie the need to develop focused training and dynamic and readily accessible resources for teachers.

The Gifted Education Department director and program mentor developed and maintain this effective and cost efficient system for constructing and providing training and resources from within the district and from the Internet. The Gifted Resource Site (GRS) was developed using Google Groups and tools, free resources accessible to schools throughout the world. The repository incorporates existing district resources and contributions from district teachers. This dynamic training and resource site—located on the district's Intranet, "pvLearners"—is continually updated based on teacher need, current and emerging educational and technological trends, and school/district/program initiatives.

Purpose

The Gifted Resource Site (GRS) was developed to provide teachers with immediate access to a current and extensive repository of resources to help them address the diverse learning needs of their gifted, talented and general education students.

Goals

1. Provide professional development in gifted education based on theory, pedagogy and current best practices for teachers of gifted students.
2. Align teacher support for gifted education with the district's mission of developing and promoting digital-age literacies and cultivating world-class thinkers.

3. Provide all district teachers with access to innovative instructional methods, advanced and differentiated curriculum, systems for communication and collaborative learning and achievement data.
4. Expose teachers to instructional strategies that engage, challenge, and enrich learning for high ability and high achieving students.
5. Encourage collaboration, communication, critical thinking and creativity throughout the district.
6. Motivate all teachers to incorporate gifted education instructional objectives and strategies into everyday teaching for all students.

Target Audience

The Gifted Resource Site, and all services, trainings, and lessons included within its structure, are available to all teachers, administrators and staff members in the district. While the target audience includes any teacher teaching gifted students, the site is also intended for a potential pool of approximately 4500 staff members from the district's 44 elementary and secondary schools.

This robust Web-based repository represents a dynamic and continually evolving support system that teachers and administrators can access at any time from any location. The Gifted Resource Site provides teachers with access to a myriad of training opportunities, including face-to-face, online, virtual, after school workshops and summer sessions. Training can be taken as individual units or in the form of modules.

Site Design

The GRS consists of Tabs located on the horizontal bar and Sections situated on the side bar.

- **Tabs** link users to professional development, communication forums and achievement data.
- **Sections** contain curriculum and instructional materials, such as lesson plans, essential maps, formative assessment tools and instructional scope and sequences.

TABS: Groups, Professional Development, Gifted PD Online

Groups

Communication forums for the various groups of teachers and administrators:

- Gifted Teacher Chat
- Cluster Teachers
- Early Childhood Gifted Teachers
- Self-contained Program Teachers
- Gifted Specialists
- Gifted Liaisons
- Secondary Honors

- Focus Group Principals

Professional Development

- Gifted Workshops Listings
 - Face-to-face
 - Online
- Training Videos
 - Teacher created videos demonstrating specific differentiation strategies, such as Socratic Seminar, Teaching with Bloom's Taxonomy, critical thinking, digital learning and project-based learning.
 - Administrator created videos on all aspects of the program
- Workshop Presentations
 - Archive of previously presented workshop presentations for teacher review.
- Schools' Forums
 - Forums created for schools pertaining to a specific best practice strategy, such as questioning strategies, critical thinking, differentiation strategies, etc., where teachers at that school study material and media posted and collaborate online for district professional development credit

Gifted PD Online

Teachers can take a variety of PD workshops online, and for district professional development credit, at their convenience. All materials and media needed to complete the workshops are linked to each workshop site.

Online workshops involve four steps:

1. View posted videos
2. Read posted material
3. Take a quiz
4. Create and share a lesson or resource

Sample workshop titles:

- Common Core Connections (both ELA and Math for all elementary and secondary teachers of the gifted and talented)
- Going Digital
- Navigating the Gifted Resource Site
- Teaching in the Schoolwide Cluster Grouping Model
- Teaching Gifted Kids in Today's Classroom
- Teaching Strategies in the Gifted Cluster Classroom
- Most Difficult First Strategy
- Creating Tiered Lessons and Extension Menus
- Forming Flexible Learning Groups & Curriculum Compacting
- Assessment and Grading
- Creating and Managing Learning Centers
- Integrating Technology
- Learning Contacts & Study Guides

- Critical Thinking Strategies
- Pop Culture in the Classroom

Training Modules

Module 1: Gifted 101: Identification, Needs, and Services

Module 2: Differentiating Daily for High Ability Learners

Module 3: Challenging Gifted Students in the Content Areas

Module 4: Teaching Gifted Digital Natives

Module 5: Common Core Connections

Teachers select three workshops within each module.

Each module:

- Addresses social & emotional needs, diversity, differentiated curriculum and instruction, assessments, technology and critical thinking
- Utilizes resources on the GRS
- Incorporates district adopted curriculum
- Supports district goals and initiatives
- Embeds evidence-based principles and theories
- Includes 8-12 workshop selections

Going Digital

Resources included here include a sampling of current and emerging trends in educational technology. Topics include: the flipped classroom, using social media in the classroom, ISTE's NETS standards, cloud-based learning tips, creating global communities, etc.

Gifted Program Presentations

Videos posted here provide information about the district's identification procedures and gifted services. Students, teachers, parents and administrators share details about the continuum of services in the district.

Videos include:

- Program presentations
- Nomination procedures for parents and for teachers
- Identification criteria and application process for the district's gifted programs
- Curriculum and instruction highlights
- Technology integration efforts

District Gifted Website

Staff members can link directly to the Paradise Valley Unified School District Gifted Education Website through this portal. The gifted website provides detailed information for staff members and the public.

Sections include:

- Hot Topics
- Gifted Scope & Sequence
- Testing and Placements Procedures
- Parent Information
- Teacher Resources
- Contact Information
- Gifted program information at the elementary and secondary levels
- Information and applications for the district's specialized gifted programs

Achievement Data

Contains presentations created yearly for every PVUSD school showing gifted students' performance in each subject area tested on AIMS (Arizona's Instrument to Measure the Standards) with data delineated by grade level, feeder system, and content area (math, reading, writing, and science). This information helps monitor student progress and guides curriculum development and teacher support.

Gifted PLCs

Paradise Valley has incorporated use of Professional Learning Communities (PLC) at all schools and in all departments. Here, teachers can access general information, data and resources to support ongoing PLC efforts.

SECTIONS: Scope & Sequence, ELA Curriculum, Math Curriculum and Lesson Extensions

Scope & Sequence

Scope and Sequence section allows teachers access to documents and resources that support the Gifted Education Department's goals and provides roadmaps for development of schedules, meetings, and units of study.

Sample Items:

- Arizona Department of Education Gifted Education resources
- PVUSD's and the Gifted Education Department's long range plans, COMPASS.
- Gifted Program Scope and Sequence
- Gifted Instructional Objectives (delineated K – 12)
- Gifted Education Department's documents, forms, sample parent letters, etc.
- Teaching procedures and protocols that ensure equity in the evaluation process
- Staff schedules for Gifted Specialists to support the needs of the varied gifted services
- The Schoolwide Cluster Grouping Model section provides articles and documents on cluster grouping.
- Meeting agendas for gifted teacher groups to guide the gifted specialist in providing optimal training opportunities

ELA Curriculum

English Language Arts (ELA) Curriculum Tools section provides a comprehensive resource through which instruction can be designed and delivered.

Contained within this section:

- Resource Support and Site Support
- Exemplar Lessons
- Curriculum maps, outlining the courses of study
- Literary elements focus with activities outlined, lesson samples and other resources
- Michael Clay Thompson Grammar and Vocabulary materials outlined with lesson formats, activities, articulated word lists and teaching plans

Math Curriculum

Math Curriculum Tools section contains resources, plans and documents to assist in lesson design and delivery for differentiated and accelerated instruction.

Contained within this section:

- Curriculum Maps for grades K-8
- Forms for documenting mastery of standards at each grade level
- Crosswalks to support the transition to Common Core
- Numerous math resources and sites to meet our students' varied needs
- Math Placement procedures to support teachers in making appropriate placements, especially for students learning significantly above grade level

Lesson Extensions

Provides formatted differentiated lessons and activities designed to extend and enhance the learning of students. This rich repository is intended for cluster teachers, gifted specialists, honors teachers, and any classroom teacher, elementary and secondary. Lesson extensions, such as extension menus and tiered assignments, incorporate Bloom's Taxonomy, Gardner's Multiple Intelligences, Kaplan's Depth and Complexity and Renzulli's work. The repository is organized by grade level, PreK-12, and by content area: math, language arts, science, math and social studies.

"Differentiating Digitally" is a specialized section within Lesson Extensions categorized by:

- General Education, Language Arts, and Math folders
- Sites that support the learning of our digital natives
- Digital Pilot programs that include sample activities, teacher made videos of instructional methods and student demonstrations of learning

Assessment

This section provides access to procedures and documentation of formal and informal, formative and summative assessments.

- Reporting tools such as parent letters and teacher documentation forms
- A state assessment data repository that archives data for analysis
- Testing and benchmarking procedures and documentation forms provided in the ELA Curriculum Tools and the Math Curriculum Tools sections.

We update the site nearly daily in response to teachers' needs and suggestions. Teachers having immediate access to planned support can more effectively implement instructional innovation. We can be reached at dbrulles@pvschools.net and karbrown@pvschools.net.