



## Hello A.E. Wright GATE Community!

TISHA BANKER, AGP CHAIR

We hope you are having a great start to the school year. The AGP Board is working on organizing the fall and winter calendar of events which will include the AGP Fall meeting and Parent Education Night on November 9th, 2023.

This newsletter includes the first classroom updates of the year from our amazing GATE teachers.

Please look out for our annual GATE fundraiser coming November 1st. We appreciate all of your generous donation so that we can support our amazing GATE program and teachers.

If you are interested in being involved this year, have ideas for our class get togethers and/or Parent Ed night topics, please email [agpaew@gmail.com](mailto:agpaew@gmail.com).

Thank you all for your support in keeping our GATE program strong!

## Upcoming Events

**October 27, 2023 @ 7 PM**  
**Agoura High School vs. Moorpark Varsity Football Game**

GATE students and their families are invited to attend the AHS Chargers home game vs. Moorpark High School. This is not a drop off event, parental/adult supervision is required. Purchase your tickets [here](#).

**November 9, 2023**  
**from 6:30 PM to 8 PM**  
**Fall Meeting of the Association of GATE Parents (AGP) and Parent Education (Zoom)**

Please join us for our Fall Meeting of the Association of GATE Parents (AGP) and Parent Education. We will introduce the AGP Board, briefly talk about fall and winter activities, provide GATE updates, before our parent education presentation entitled [Executive \(Dys\)Function: Making Things Better](#) by Lisa Van Gemert "the Gifted Guru". See [Page 8](#) for more info.

### INCOMING FAMILIES PICNIC



# 6TH GRADE UPDATES

## 6th Grade ELA/SS

MRS. RINALDI AND MS. HOLMAN

In 6th grade, we started the year learning about each other since we all came from various elementary schools. We have already learned so much about our similarities, differences, and how we can work together. The concept attainment model helped teach us what Universal Concepts/Themes are and how these help us make connections across all content areas and think a bit deeper. We are starting with CHANGE in semester one. We can look at changes that occur in our social science (SS) civilizations, English language arts (ELA) novels, and science content.

In SS, we finished our geography unit and learned the themes of geography, the history of cartography, and the vocabulary that cartographers use when looking at and creating maps. We applied this knowledge to create our own unique maps. We are now learning about Early Humans and how they changed over time from hunting and gathering to settling into farming city states.

In language arts, we are deep into our class novel *Counting by 7s* and making connections, examining author's choices, thinking about the character's development, looking at various points of view, and will culminate with a Socratic Seminar discussion soon. We are also gearing up to start a narrative writing unit where we examine plot elements and create our own narrative stories. We will learn about writing structure, writing process, characters, engaging hooks, dialogue, and applying grammar skills to improve our own writing pieces.





# 6TH GRADE UPDATES

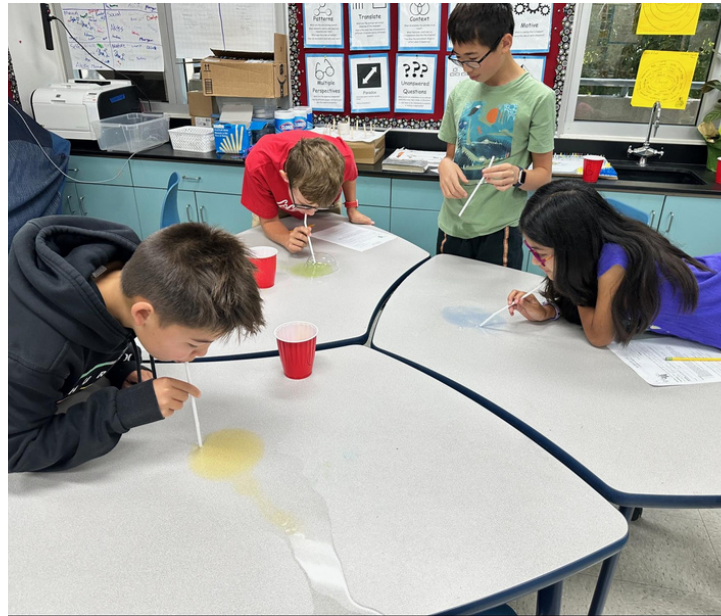
## 6th Grade Science

MRS. RINALDI AND MRS. HERRERA

In 6th grade Science, we have started the year thinking like scientists! We learned about the scientific method including the processes scientists use to investigate questions.

We ventured to the garden one beautiful day to make qualitative and quantitative observations as well as inferences. We learned about asking questions, hypothesis testing, independent variables, dependent variables, control variables, collecting data, analyzing data, graphing data, making conclusions, and communicating results. We experienced the scientific method many times through some fun hands-on labs.

Next we are continuing to learn about claim, evidence, and reasoning (CER). CER skills will help us across all subjects. Following that, we will dive into learning about planet earth.





# 7TH GRADE UPDATES

## 7th Grade ELA/SS

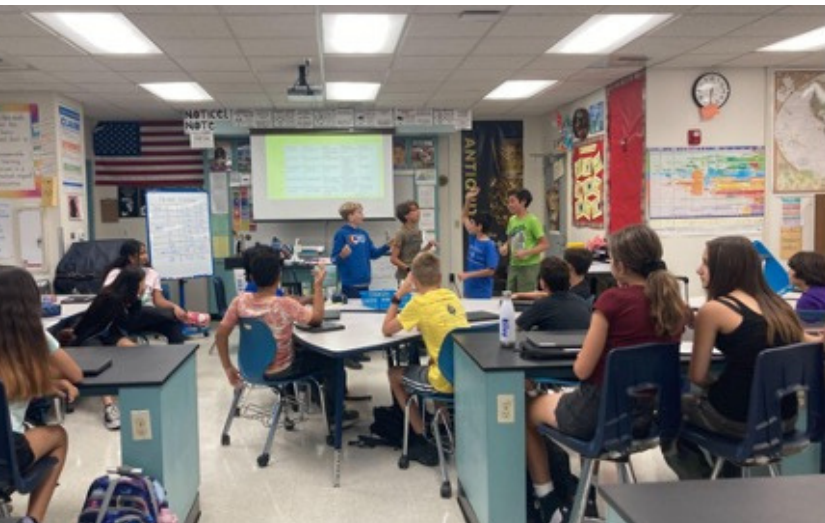
MRS. PAIK AND MS. MILLER

At the start of this new school year, we jumped right into an exploration of our universal concept of order (and its reciprocal, chaos) by defining it, seeing if generalizations about order ring true, and creating our own versions of it. We also used it as a lens to understand and interpret a short story, “The Interlopers.” This is an idea we will be using all year long in both ELA and history. Parents, please feel free to ask the students about it and look for examples in your everyday lives and the places you visit!

We also started with many Thinking Like a Historian activities like trying to find out what happened at a fictional fight at a middle school and considering how historians’ worldviews might influence how they see history.

We’ve begun a new unit in ELA in which we examine what it means to be on the inside and on the outside. We are reading various short stories and nonfiction articles as we lead up to our first class novel, *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. This text is rich with literary elements to learn from as readers and writers and provides great material for Socratic Seminars about relationships, social rules and hierarchies, and the complexities of being “in” or “out.”

We’ve also dug right into a deep study of medieval Europe with students working both individually and collaboratively in their manor groups to understand what life was like for the various levels of society in Europe from about 900-1400. The students are designing castles that can withstand a lengthy siege and will continue on with a study of chivalry, the religious influences of that time period and location, geography of medieval and modern Europe, and much more!



# 7TH GRADE UPDATES

## 7th Grade Science

MRS. SERVIN-WEST

On the first day of school students examined a candle flame and were asked to determine if it was alive or not. Students quickly discovered that justifying their answer scientifically was much more difficult than sharing their opinion! For the last few weeks students have been learning how to conduct experiments, collect data, and identify patterns in all living things so that they could conclusively answer the question: Is fire alive or not?

In the images below you can see students collaborating to create science safety posters, working as a group to collect heart rate data for a lab they designed themselves, making observations of living things in the AE Wright Garden, and analyzing the different pieces of evidence supporting or contradicting the different characteristics of life that each lab group was trying to prove!

Now that students have finished learning to think like a scientist, we are finally ready to begin learning about the cell! Students have just started learning to use microscopes and I am excited to see them start new investigations into microscopic life!





# 7TH GRADE FIELD TRIP GETTY CENTER





# 8TH GRADE UPDATES

## 8th Grade ELA/SS

MRS. TEPPER & MS. HOLMAN

The year has taken off to a magnificent start in 8th grade. We began with some get-to-know each other games that highlight the importance of communication and discussed how they relate to real life via group projects and working collaboratively in class. In ELA, we are currently reading & discussing Jacqueline Woodson's *Brown Girl Dreaming*. We have been analyzing this poetic text from various disciplinary lenses (historians, linguists, psychologists, sociologists, and philosophers). We have reviewed the importance of annotating and put our skills to the test with poetry from Langston Hughes, Nikki Grimes, and Paul Laurence Dunbar all the while reviewing plot elements, poetic devices, and figurative language. Students created masks and birthday poems that connect to our discussion of all the factors that make up one's identity.

In social studies, we began the year reviewing the key themes of history that will be an underlying focus of all future units and have been studying how to evaluate online information using a very timely curriculum created by Stanford professors, Mediawise, and John Green. On 9/11, we discussed how people move on from tragedy and analyzed George W. Bush's address to the nation (more annotation practice!) We are currently studying the Civil War, making connections between slavery and race relations as they pertain to our novel unit, which takes place during the Civil Rights Movement. Students have analyzed data, read influential primary documents (speeches by Abraham Lincoln & Frederick Douglass), and noted changes over time, multiple perspectives, trends, and patterns that are significant before we jump back in time to the nation's origin and the promises and hopes of the founding fathers.



# 8TH GRADE UPDATES

## 8th Grade Science

MR. BOSTRUM

What an exciting start to the school year we have had! Students have begun our first unit of chemistry by exploring experimental design and properties of matter. So far students have designed their own experiments and collected their own data. They then shared their findings with the class in a mini science fair.

In addition, students completed a lab where they had to collect and gather data to determine the optimal length for their Barbie's bungee cord. They then put their skills to the test by dropping their Barbies from the second story to see who could get their bungee to stretch as close to the ground as possible without actually hitting. The lab was a blast and lots of fun for all! Looking forward to more exciting updates as we move along with our year in science!



### PARENT EDUCATION DETAILS

#### EXECUTIVE (DYS)FUNCTION: MAKING THINGS BETTER

LET'S FACE IT: OUR KIDDOS SOMETIMES STRUGGLE MORE WITH TURNING IN WORK THAN THEY DO WITH ACTUALLY DOING THE WORK. WE FEEL LIKE OUR CHILD IS IN A CONSTANT AUDITION FOR A STARRING ROLE IN THE ABSENT-MINDED PROFESSOR. IT'S A THING. VIRTUAL LEARNING HAS MADE THE SITUATION (MUCH) WORSE. JOIN IN WHILE LISA VAN GEMERT SHARES PRACTICAL STRATEGIES AND TIPS REAL FAMILIES CAN USE RIGHT AWAY TO SUPPORT GIFTED STUDENTS IN TODAY'S LEARNING ENVIRONMENT.



## Parent Resource

EXPLAINING GIFTEDNESS TO KIDS  
ARTICLE ([LINK](#))

VISIT THE GATE PARENTS [WEBSITE](#)  
CONTACT US AT [AGPAEW@GMAIL.COM](mailto:AGPAEW@GMAIL.COM)  
FOLLOW GATE ON TWITTER [@GATEATAEWRIGHT](#)