Los Angeles Unified School District
Division of Instruction/Advanced Learning Options
Gifted/Talented Programs
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Division of Instruction
Los Angeles Unified School District

Parent Newsletter

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Summer Reading List for Parents

Books to nurture you and your child

Teachers often send out summer reading lists to keep students engaged in learning over the summer. Gifted/Talented Programs thought it would be helpful to provide a list of books that specifically address the needs of gifted learners. Many of the books deal with raising a gifted child, others are books about qualities unique to gifted children, and one is just for fun. We wish all of you a relaxing and safe summer vacation and look forward to connecting with you again in the fall. Until then, happy reading!

Parenting

Parenting Gifted Children: The Authoritative Guide from the National Association for Gifted Children - Prufrock Press, Inc.

A Parent's Guide to Gifted Children - Great Potential Press, Inc.

Grandparents' Guide to Gifted Children - Great Potential Press, Inc.

Twice Exceptional (2e)

Misdiagnosis and Dual Diagnoses of Gifted Children and Adults: ADHD, Bipolar, OCD, Asperger's, Depression, and Other Disorders, 2nd Edition - Great Potential Press, Inc.

Social Emotional Needs

Living with Intensity: Understanding the Sensitivity, Excitability, and the Emotional Development of Gifted Children, Adolescents, and Adults - Great Potential Press, Inc.

Able Underachievement

Why Bright Kids Get Poor Grades and What You Can Do About It: A Six-Step Program for Parents and Teachers, 3rd Edition - Great Potential Press, Inc.

Spanish

Educando Hijos Exitosos - Great Potential Press, Inc.

Humor

Surviving My Smart Family - Great Potential Press, Inc.

Family Night In

Free ideas for family time

Tired of battling L.A. traffic to take the kids out? Are your children complaining of boredom? Try these ideas for Family Night In, inspired by blogger mom Susan Merrill, to instill creativity and make memories for years to come.

How-to night: Learn something together—cook a new recipe, plant a garden, make a craft, or play a sport. The only rule is that no one in the family should already be an expert on the topic you are learning.

Costume night: Using only clothes you already have, see who can create the best costume. Act like the character you created the rest of the night and interact with your new "friends."

Picture night: Use your phone to take fun family portraits and artsy photos around your home and neighborhood. Upload to your social media or print out the best ones to frame!

Approved by: AG Arzie Galvez, Director, Advanced Learning Options

School Spotlight

Esperanza Elementary School
(Local District Central)

At Esperanza Elementary School in the Westlake neighborhood of downtown Los Angeles, gifted/talented students and potential gifted/talented students participate in differentiated learning which goes beyond the four walls of the classroom. In 2015, the school collaborated with a community partner, the Los Angeles Audubon Society, to convert a 4,500 square foot corner of the campus into a native schoolyard habitat. The students researched the coastal sage scrub ecology and determined what plants might have lived on Los Angeles' coastal plain 600 years ago. They then conducted experiments to understand the soil types in the planting area and used their findings to recommend plants. The students and their families united with other volunteers to plant the habitat. Nearly four years later, the schoolyard habitat has become a living laboratory. This school year Esperanza's GATE and potential GATE students collaborated with a science educator from the Los Angeles Natural History Museum to create a bilingual field guide of the pollinators of Los Angeles County. This guide will be available for use throughout the region. The school has become an official eBird.org Hotspot for Cornell University—one of a handful in downtown Los Angeles. Students observe and record data on bird life on campus. The students' observations inform ornithologists' understanding of changes in bird populations in an urban zone. Next year, the Los Angeles Audubon Society will involve gifted/talented and potential gifted/talented students in science illustration enrichment classes. Esperanza is finding that natural history is not just at the museum—it is also all around the school campus.

LAPL Discover and Go!

Did you know that your Los Angeles Public Library card can do more than check out books, music, and videos? Your family can explore L.A. museums and attractions through an exciting partnership between the Los Angeles Public Library and local cultural institutions. Log in to Discover & Go with your Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) card and reserve free or low-cost passes to participating organizations. Go to https://lapl.discoverandgo.net and have your library card handy to log in and make a reservation. There are 19 participating museums, including the Autry Museum, Kidspace, the Natural History Museum, and the Skirball Cultural Center. This program is available to Los Angeles residents 18 and over with an LAPL card in good standing. If you don't have a library card, you can get one for free at any Los Angeles Public Library branch.

Important Dates

- **June 7:** Last day of school for the 2018-19 school year
- **July 4:** Independence Day
- **August 20:** First day of school for the 2019-20 school year
- **August 30:** Admissions Day - Schools Closed
- **September 2:** Labor Day Holiday

Approved by: *AG* Arzie Galvez, Director, Advanced Learning Options