



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

ENRICH! Creative Arts Magnet/GATE Program

Linda J. LaMarre, Superintendent—823-7008 (llamarre@grav.k12.ca.us)

Gravenstein Union School District (www.grav.k12.ca.us)

1. How do I know if my child would be a good fit for the ENRICH! Magnet/GATE Program?

Your child would probably be a good fit for the ENRICH! Creative Arts Magnet/GATE Program if he/she:

- is at a proficient level or above in Language Arts and Math
- has the ability to maintain self-control and/or resolve behavior issues
- has an interest or potential for the creative arts and would enjoy having more enrichment classes in the school day
- has a good school attendance record

2. Is the ENRICH! Magnet Program part of the Gravenstein District?

Yes, ENRICH! Creative Arts Magnet/GATE Program is a District program at Gravenstein Elementary School (grades K-5) and Hillcrest Middle School (grades 6-8).

3. Who are the Administrators of the ENRICH! Creative Arts Magnet/GATE Program?

The ENRICH! program is part of the Gravenstein District. The principals are David Fichera at Hillcrest Middle School and Linda LaMarre at Gravenstein Elementary School. They also operate as co-directors of the ENRICH! program.

4. In which regular classes or activities do the ENRICH! Magnet/GATE Program students participate?

The 6th, 7th and 8th grade ENRICH! program students currently participate with regular Hillcrest program students in band classes, some grade-alike physical education classes and assemblies. All ENRICH! students join the regular education students in lunch recess and intramural games, after school sports programs, dances, after-school drama, before school jazz band, before school strings program, spelling bees, and any other program or activity available to regular program students.

All ENRICH! program classes have their own self-contained teacher. When a 7th or 8th grade ENRICH! class is with a regular program Hillcrest teacher (Math, Science, PE, Band--see answer below) the ENRICH! teacher assists that teacher with a portion of their class or assists/teaches in another ENRICH! classroom.

The Kindergarten through fifth grade ENRICH! classes are self-contained, as are all grades at Gravenstein. The ENRICH! classroom students participate in all grade-alike activities, such as, recesses, lunch, spelling bees, science fairs, etc. and assemblies.

5. Do the students have a strong academic program as well as creative arts enrichment?

All students and teachers utilize the same state and district adopted standards-based Math, Language Arts, Social Studies and Science materials but the ENRICH! classes may move at a quicker pace since this is a GATE program and students are screened through test results and/or teacher observation to be proficient or above at their grade level. The teachers may add materials to the core materials.

At the 7th and 8th grade level, the traditional program Hillcrest teachers are used for their expertise in Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, and Science and conduct ENRICH! specific classes. Hillcrest's music/band teacher and physical education teacher (at the 7th and 8th grade level) also instruct ENRICH! students.

6. What are some of the additional field trips available to ENRICH! students?

Exciting additional field trips for ENRICH! students once a month have included hands-on learning activities at Ft. Ross, the Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon, Yosemite National Park, other over night trips, various museums, orchestral and operatic programs in San Francisco, and many more. The younger grades stay closer to home with various trips mainly in Sonoma County. There is at least one field trip a month in the ENRICH! program.

7. What additional enrichment classes are included in the ENRICH! Program?

Enrichment classes have included hands-on science, Spanish (two classes a week), chorus, art, African drumming, drama, poetry, dance, newspaper, yearbook, and computer skills, among others. In the visual arts, students have enjoyed silk painting, cartooning, papermaking, and art history to name a few.

8. How does the ENRICH! program include the additional arts classes or field trips without missing some core curriculum?

The ENRICH! Program students **have 45 minutes a day longer school day than the traditional program students.**

The magnet program day at Hillcrest, for instance, begins at 8:30 and ends at 3:30. The regular program day begins at 8:45 and ends at 3:05. Kindergarten traditional day is 8:45 – 1:50. The ENRICH! program Kindergarten day is 8:25 - 2:15.

9. What is the size of ENRICH! classes?

The size for Kindergarten - 3rd grade classes is 21 or less. The size of Grade 4-8 ENRICH! classes is between 24 - 26 students.

10. What are some programs and benefits made possible through parent donations to the Magnet Program Foundation?

- Additional field trips and enrichment classes as described above
- Exclusive use of ENRICH! classroom teachers combined with additional instruction from specialized math, science, music and PE teachers

11. How much parent participation is expected?

Parent participation is not part of the criteria considered for admission to the program. However, our ENRICH! program thrives in part because of parents volunteering in classrooms, driving on

field trips and attending parent meetings and social events that help build relationships with the other families.

12. What methods do the teachers use to encourage a cooperative environment among students?

Besides the general classroom management reward criteria, policies and rules, etc. that the entire district uses, our teachers have had training in the EMPOWER, Second Step, and BEST programs to help them understand how to bring the best out of students, understand the dynamics of some subtle bullying, and facilitate whole class or small group meetings with their students.

13. What are the Second-Step and EMPOWER programs?

Second-Step and EMPOWER are programs that, in part, help teach students how to recognize when they are bullying or being bullied and how to handle it. It also helps students understand the dynamics of cliques, gossip, and other relationships. An additional benefit of these programs is teaching the teachers how to run class meetings.

14. What is the BEST Program?

The BEST Program is a school-wide positive incentive program to recognize and encourage the behavior we want our students to have. It helps to bring out the best in students.

15. How many school days are included in the Gravenstein Union School District?

The students attending school in the Gravenstein Union School District enjoy a 180 day school year. This includes the traditional program as well as the ENRICH! program students.

All Gravenstein District programs and activities are free from discrimination based on gender, sex, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation or the perception of one or more of such characteristics.