



# ENRICH!

## Creative Arts Magnet/GATE

Program of the Gravenstein Union School District

### Program Handbook 2012-2013

This handbook is specific to the ENRICH! Program and is to be used in addition to the district handbook for school district procedures. Please read and review both handbooks. You can find the Gravenstein Union School District Student & Parent Handbook at [www.grav.k12.ca.us](http://www.grav.k12.ca.us).

# Welcome to the ENRICH! Program

Welcome to the 2012-2013 school year. The ENRICH! Program is a Creative Arts Magnet/GATE Program of the Gravenstein Union School District. This GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) program has strong academics, creative and performing arts and involved parents.

**New for the 2011-12 school year!**

**We have three district GATE Coordinators: Kasey Hillier (grades K-2) Keri Pugno (grades 3-5) Kelly Sporrer (grades 6-8).** The coordinators will be arranging activities for advanced district students (in the clustered grade levels).

More information is available on both the district website [www.grav.k12.ca.us](http://www.grav.k12.ca.us) and the MPF website [www.gravenstein-mpf.org](http://www.gravenstein-mpf.org) .

## **Vision /Mission Statement**

The ENRICH! Creative Arts Magnet /GATE Program supports the emerging child in becoming a whole person through integration of strong academics, creative arts, and community involvement in an environment that fosters acceptance and respect for self and others. Our vision is accomplished through the dedication of skilled teachers, program leadership, involved families, enriched activities, collaborative relationships with the school administration and committed financial support.

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Seventh/Eighth grade: John Collins  
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Eighth grade: Kelly Sporrer  
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## **Roles in the ENRICH! Program Community**

### **Parents as members of the ENRICH! Community:**

- Provide a responsible home environment
- Support responsible, creative and caring behavior
- Value the need for homework—time and place
- Ensure student attendance is a priority
- Participate in parent education and problem-solving opportunities as much as possible
- Build cooperative/interactive relationships with staff and administration of the district
- Support the program with financial, expertise and time contributions as much as possible

### **Students as members of the ENRICH! community:**

- Engage in academic, creative and cooperative learning
- Value appropriate and responsible behavior and treat all with respect
- Participate in problem-solving
- Contribute effort and interest in all activities
- Complete homework and other obligations
- Respond to opportunities for leadership, demonstrating strong and caring citizenship

### **Teachers as members of the ENRICH! community:**

- Provide a creative and cooperative environment
- Support student's intellectual, social and artistic growth.
- Maintain a strong academic core and music, drama, art, poetry and Spanish
- Follow state standards in all academic instruction

- Consider student needs and gifts
- Create a culture that fosters dignity and integrity, responsibility for actions, and problem solving
- Model a joy of learning as a lifelong process
- Build cooperative/interactive relationships with school families

## **Program Advisory Meetings**

Program advisory meetings serve as an avenue for communication. It allows the district administration to gather input from and all members of the ENRICH! program parent community.

These meetings are not the appropriate forum to discuss teacher or classroom-specific issues that would be better handled with the classroom teacher or site principal. The program meeting dates will be set by the administration and posted in the district Monday Messages.

## **Communication is Essential**

We believe communication is essential for a successful program. The primary way the school district communicates with parents is through the district's Monday Messages, emails, and a variety of classroom communications initiated by the teacher. Information about the Magnet Program Foundation functions is shared through a foundation newsletter, MPF emails, the MPF website (linked on the district website) and MPF Meetings.

## **Collaboration**

Within the ENRICH! program we value collaboration amongst teachers, administrators, students and parents.

- **Talking with your child's teacher:** The teachers and administrators are happy to speak with parents about questions or concerns.
  - The teachers are usually available after school for conferences; however, it is always best to schedule a time to ensure availability.

- If you wish to contact your child’s teacher, please do so! All ENRICH! teachers regularly use both email and their classroom voicemail. Phone calls during the instructional day will be sent directly to voicemail. The secretaries will not disrupt the instructional periods unless it is an emergency. Notes can be sent to school with your child and you can personally deliver messages or information when you see the teacher.
  - The time right before school can be a busy one for most teachers. If mornings are the best time for you to meet with your child's teacher, please try to arrange a conference day in advance.
- **Please see the contact page of the handbook for contact information for all teachers and administrators.**

## **Volunteering**

Volunteering is another important contribution that each family can make to the program. Some volunteer opportunities are set up by the teachers, some by administration and some are MPF volunteer opportunities—contacts are indicated below.

- assisting in the classroom (teacher)
- driving on field trips (teacher)
- clerical support (teacher and MPF opportunities)
- website maintenance (MPF)
- contributing to the MPF Newsletter (articles or photographs) (MPF)
- event planning (or hosting a parent social) (MPF)
- helping with set-up/clean-up at MPF Parent Meetings (MPF)
- teaching or assisting in an Enrichment class (administration)

Teaching an enrichment class or a Friday Elective is great way to volunteer and also share with our students your particular skill, craft or hobby. If you have an idea or contact for an enrichment class, please contact David Fichera at [dfichera@grav.k12.ca.us](mailto:dfichera@grav.k12.ca.us).

Look for current volunteer opportunities in the MPF newsletter. Also look for sign-up sheets in the classrooms, at MPF parent meetings, and other get-togethers.

## **Social Environment**

### **Second Step, Empower, BEST**

The ENRICH! Program, along with the entire district, is committed to providing a respectful, safe learning environment where children can feel free to explore, try new things, make mistakes and, most of all, be themselves. Teachers utilize many different tools, skills, and programs to create a positive learning environment. Teachers have regular class meetings to catch conflicts early and help children deal with issues in a respectful and supportive fashion. If you have any questions about how class meetings are handled in your child's classroom, please contact your child's teacher. Second Step and EMPOWER are similar programs to address bullying and other anti-social behaviors. Second Step is the main program used at the K-5 level. EMPOWER is utilized (and intended) for students at the middle school level and above. BEST is a program to recognize good or appropriate behavior at school.

One of the tools used in the 6-8 grades is Empower's Owing Up Curriculum, which encourages the development of self-awareness, integrity, empathy, compassion and courage. Here's a brief description of the program:

“Until recently, bullying was thought of as a bigger boy, often with low self-esteem and low social status, physically picking on a smaller boy. But this definition of bullying ignores its root causes. In contrast, the Empower Program believes that the root causes of bullying are founded on how people, children and adults alike, define who has power, privilege, and respect in our culture.

One of the primary ways people define who has power and respect is how our culture defines masculinity and femininity. Within this context, girls and boys form relationships and alliances with their peers that are both a source of support and conflict. This in turn helps to create a complex social hierarchy that can dictate people's roles as perpetrators, bystanders, and/or targets for bullying.

Owing Up, a curriculum by the Empower Program, teaches boys and girls to analyze this dynamic and understand how it manifests itself in their everyday experience of cliques, popularity, bullying, gossip, crushes, and other relationships. Through participation in this program, boys and girls are empowered to bear witness and stand up against degrading behavior so that they can make their communities safe and inclusive for all people.” — The Empower Program

## Program Schedules

### **ENRICH! Schedules (times vary from Traditional Schedules)**

Kindergarten ENRICH! at Gravenstein	8:25-2:15
Grades 1-5 ENRICH! at Gravenstein	8:25-3:20
Grades 6-8 ENRICH! at Hillcrest	8:30-3:30

The daily schedules are listed above. Exceptions are the district early release days. These days are usually held on the third Thursday of the month and dismissal for all ENRICH! students on those days is 1:00. These dates are clearly marked on district calendars sent home in Monday Messages. The ENRICH! schedule differs from the traditional Gravenstein and Hillcrest programs to provide time for the additional creative arts curriculum.

**School begins promptly at 8:25 on the Gravenstein campus and 8:30 on the Hillcrest campus.** If your student is late, they must report to the school office for a tardy slip.

### **Parking and Pick-up from School**

Please abide by the signs and direction given in the parking lot. At Gravenstein and Hillcrest campuses-- it is critical when waiting for your child that you continue to pull your car forward in line. If you are in the circle at Gravenstein or Hillcrest **do not leave your car unattended.** If you plan on getting out of your vehicle, please park in a designated parking space.

On the Hillcrest campus, the parking area nearest the ENRICH! classrooms is reserved for teachers and administrators only—**DO NOT** park or pick up students in this area. Please do not drive past the signs that indicate “Staff Only,” even to quickly drop off your student. You may drop your student off quickly on the other side of the fence in front of the gymnasium. Again, pull as far to the top of the drive as possible. If leaving your vehicle at either campus--- park in the main lot and walk onto the campus.

We have staggered release times to attempt to help relieve congestion of traffic at the end of the day. If you come early for pick-up you will add to the congestion of the traditional release time.

## **Magnet Program Foundation (MPF)**

The Gravenstein Schools Magnet Program Foundation is a non-profit California corporation (501 C 3) that collects donations from parents and others for the purpose of providing an arts-enriched academic experience for the students in the ENRICH! program. For further reference to the Magnet Program Foundation please go to their website [www.gravenstein-mpf.org](http://www.gravenstein-mpf.org) . The MPF website has a link on the district website at [www.grav.k12.ca.us](http://www.grav.k12.ca.us) .

MPF is a democratically run corporation. All parents/guardians of children in the ENRICH! Program are automatically members of the Magnet Program Foundation. The MPF Board of Directors is elected by the parent body annually. Board members serve for one-year terms. There is no term limit and members can be re-elected annually if the parents so choose. Please see the website for the list of current MPF board members.

## **Donations**

As you know from your interview process, MPF depends on your donations to pay for the program's extra enrichment and field trips among other items. Your donations fund enrichment classes, such as Spanish, drama, percussion, music technology, Mr. Science, art, poetry, and more. They also fund field trips at the K-6 grades and most of the field trips at the 7-8 grades.

An initial donation deposit is requested (from MPF) of all parents prior to the start of the academic school year. The recommended contribution is \$150 per month per child for students in grades K-3 and \$250 per month per child for students in grades 4-8. (*No child will ever be excluded from the program or any activity due to parents' inability to contribute.*) Your August (initial) donation will be considered the last monthly donation of the year, June 2013.

- Donations are requested the first of the month.
- Please make donation checks payable to MPF (Magnet Program Foundation).
- On your check, please write your child's name and grade.

- Please mail your check directly to MPF or put your donation in the MPF box in each campus office.

**MPF**  
**708 Gravenstein Hwy North #211**  
**Sebastopol, CA 95472**

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your donation, please contact MPF Treasurer, Delia Plikuhn at [dplikuhn@sonic.net](mailto:dplikuhn@sonic.net) or Yvonne Kleinfeld at [yvonne@wkcpas.com](mailto:yvonne@wkcpas.com).

### **Corporate Matching**

We welcome Corporate Matching which may be available to some of you through your employer. Funding and under-writing of specific events or activities and additional donations are encouraged and accepted.

### **MPF helps support the following:**

- A diverse program of enrichment classes. These include Spanish, art, music, dance and drama, among many others.
- A multitude of exciting field trips. Recent field-trips have included visits to the De Young Museum, the Wells Fargo Center for the Performing Arts, the Santa Rosa Symphony, the Sebastopol and Marin Ballet Companies, the Ashland Shakespeare Festival and many, many more.
- Teacher Stipends. Stipends are used to support the longer ENRICH! school day.
- Specialty Math and Science teachers in addition to the core classroom teacher