



# GIFTED SERVICES GAZETTE

April 2022

Volume #2, Issue #4

Rowe Van Meter, Ed.D Coordinator of Gifted Services

[rowe.vanmeter@wesdschools.org](mailto:rowe.vanmeter@wesdschools.org)

All information/ links accessible on [wesdschools.org](http://wesdschools.org). Go to "Departments," "Academic Services," "Gifted"

## Quarterly Parent Meeting / Family Night!

Come meet other gifted students and families!

**Wednesday April 20, 2022 at Great Skate 10054 N 43<sup>rd</sup> Ave Glendale, Az**

**Doors open: 4:30PM**



**STEM lesson: 5:00-5:45 PM**

**Open Skate 6:00-8:30 PM**

**Cost: \$12.00 for admission, skate rental, 1 slice of pizza, and one drink**

*\$8.00 for not skating parents (include pizza and drink) WESD Gifted Parent Committee Members are Free!*

## Update on the WESD Parent Gifted Committee

### Would you like to be involved?

We are still looking for more parents and family members who are interested in contributing to the gifted parent group. Find our table at the Family Night on April 20 at Great Skate for more info or contact [rowe.vanmeter@wesdschools.org](mailto:rowe.vanmeter@wesdschools.org) to be connected with the WESD parent group.

## Gifted Testing:



Students will need a score in the 95th percentile or higher on one area or more of a cognitive abilities test to qualify for gifted services in the 2022-23 school year. Students who were close to qualification in the 2021-22 school year will be invited to retest on the CogAT. Gifted teachers will be in contact with families at the beginning of the 2022-23 school year. If you would like to refer a child for testing for the 2022-23 school year, talk to the gifted teacher on your campus or complete the screening form and permission located on the [Gifted Services webpage](#).

All second graders in the district will be tested on the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) from May 2-10. Each school and 2nd grade teacher will make a plan for testing and send home a letter about the test. Students who have already qualified for gifted services may retest to see if they qualify in another area. Any 2nd grader who was referred for spring testing this year will wait until the May window to test with their class. Qualification letters will be sent out to all students who qualify for gifted services after this testing. **If you do NOT want your child tested/ retested** please let their homeroom teacher know. Students in the Gifted Learning Center (GLC) will not be tested.

## **Applications for the GLC/ FLEX Gifted Programs**

Did you know WESD has self-contained gifted programs for highly-capable gifted learners? If your child has gifted scores of 95th percentile in one area (gifted) and has a second score above the 90th percentile and a third score above the 80th percentile, he/she is eligible for our K-6th grade Gifted Learning Center at Sahuaro Elementary or our 7th-8th grade Flex Program at Cholla Middle School. In these programs students receive instruction at their ability level instead of at grade level. Gifted students thrive in learning environments with faster-paced instruction, choice, project-based learning, and other high-ability gifted learners.

Applications are due by **April 15, 2022**. You will receive notice of acceptance by May 6, 2022. If all the spaces are not taken, we will continue to accept applications throughout the year. On the other hand, if necessary, a wait list will be created. **Applications are currently open!** Link to applications on district website and below.

\*[Gifted Learning Center Application](#) (GLC) Kinder-6th grade in the 2022-23 school year

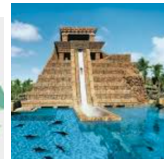
\*[Flex Gifted Program](#) 7th-8th grade in the 2022-23 school year

\*[Teacher recommendation form](#) *(one required per student application)*

Please be aware that daily transportation to the GLC at Sahuaro Elementary and Cholla Middle school are not provided, however before-school and after-school care is available. Sahuaro school hours are 7:30 a.m. -2:30 p.m. and Cholla Middle school hours are 8:15 a.m.-3:15 p.m., except for early release Wednesday.

## **Reserve your spot today!**

## **Gifted Summer School 2022 is filling up FAST!**



It's time to start thinking about summer programs! This year the WESD gifted program will host a "Mysteries of our World" summer session for grades 1st-6th. *We will be exploring mysterious people, places, and events such as the Bermuda Triangle, Big Foot, urban myths, and mythical creatures. Younger students will explore fairy tales, folktales and legends from different cultures. Our big questions are: "How do we know what to believe? How do we know what is real? Each lesson will have an engineering project connected to it.*

**Who:** Any student who qualifies as gifted in WESD or is a temporary placement student in the program may register. There will be a session for students entering 1st-3rd grade and 4th-6th grade at each school.

**When:** *May 31-June 23, 2022 (Mon-Thurs for 15 days)*

**Where:** *Parents must transport.*

\*Chaparral School: 3808 W Joan de Arc Phoenix Az 85029

\*Lookout Mt school: 15 W. Coral Gables Dr. Phoenix, Az 85023

**Cost:** \$99 per child - a limited number of (Scholarships are available) Apply on the Google form.

**Start/End times:**

7:45 am- 8:15 Breakfast

8:15-11:00 Gifted Summer Camp Activities

11:00 lunch-11:30am

**(Lookout Mt. Only)**

11:30-12:45 Gifted games and activities until STEAM camp

12:45-2:30 STEAM camp at LM

STEAM camp info: <https://www.wesdschools.org/Page/1363>.

**Registration for Gifted Summer Camp: Please complete both steps.**

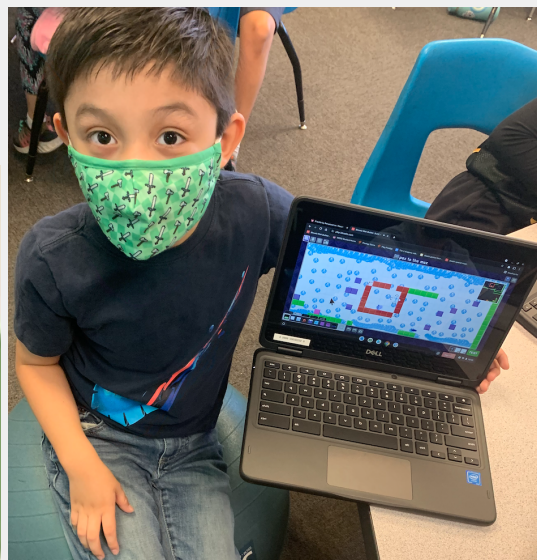
**Step 1:** [Registration Google form](#) link

**Step #2:** [Summer program payment](#)

## GLC Student at Sahuaro Creates PAX Behavior Game!

The Gifted Learning Center has been using a system for positive behavior called PAX. Using PAX students try to be on their best behavior with no “Spleems,” or off task behavior, for longer periods of time each day. Each GLC student is developing into a great PAX leader. One student, Akzel Cervantes, decided to take the program a step further and created a physical game to go along with the “good behavior game.” He used the computer program Bloxels to animate his game and make virtual “Spleems.” The PAX creators were so impressed they decided to come to Sahuaro (from Tucson) to meet Akzel, his teachers, and his classmates to see how PAX is working for them.

I better my world,  
and I better myself.





## Escape room challenges teachers and helps students!

The gifted teachers could not escape the “Toymaker” Escape Room at Incredible Escape Rooms in Glendale in less than an hour. However, James Homer from the business came to Abraham Lincoln Traditional School and worked with 7th and 8th gifted grade students on building their own escape rooms! He showed the students some of the puzzles used in the rooms and how they are planned. ALTS gifted students are now looking forward to a field trip to Incredible Escape Rooms to try and beat the teachers time. Thank you Incredible Escape Rooms for this fantastic opportunity to teambuild with our teachers and carry the excitement over to our students!



4925 W Bell Rd. Suite C7 Phoenix, Az 85308  
602-563-8500

## Summer Activity Planning

Keeping gifted minds busy during summer is important. Here's a link to more summer camps from the Raising Arizona Kids website. Many options are available from Art, Sports, Special Needs, and Virtual.

<https://www.raisingarizonakids.com/summer-camps/>



## Gifted Teachers Receive Grants for Supplies from Arizona Department of Education and Donors Choose

The state department of education generously funded several teachers project proposals through Donors Choose. We look forward to using these materials with gifted students in our classrooms!

### Funded projects include:

\*Our district received 30 copies of *The Gifted Kids Survival Guide* and 30 copies of the book *Ungifted* by Gordon Korman for a social-emotional unit.

\*Ms. McClay received a grant for critical thinking games for Roadrunner and Washington Schools..

\*Ms. Womack and Ms. Godfrey received grants for coding and robotics materials for Lookout Mountain.

\*Ms. Killion at Ironwood received MBot Neo Robots for her students.

\* Ms. Dillworth at Desert View received STEM materials picture below.



\* Ms. Holbrook received a grant to purchase flexible seating options, math games, and manipulatives.

\*Ms. Ahlman was granted several literature sets and some social-emotional learning materials.

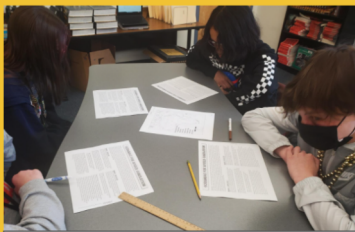
\*Ms. Nahabedian at Cactus Wren received STEM books and Kits to use in her classroom.

\*Ms. Levine got materials for her advanced reading SEM-R units at Manzanita and Sunset Schools.

\* Ms. Dunham at Cholla was granted materials for kite design and building for her math classes.

\*Ms. Dacey is redesigning her classroom with new materials, storage, and quiet corners with sensory items.

# Great Gifted Happenings in WESD



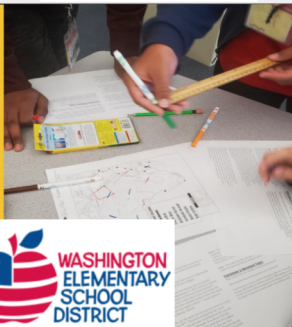
Mock Berlin conference and the a Scramble for Africa at Cholla FLEX



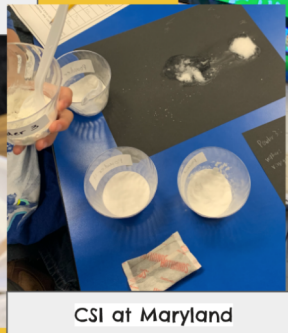
STEAM Roller Coaster at Lakeview



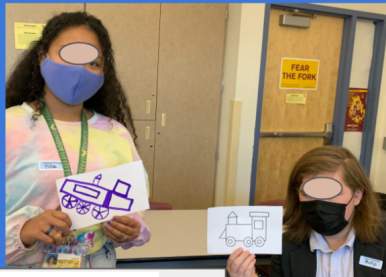
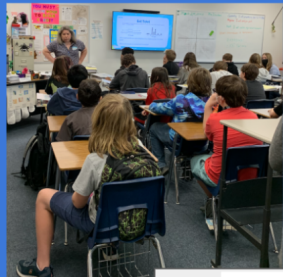
Learning about the "Zones of Regulation" at the GLC (Sahvaro)



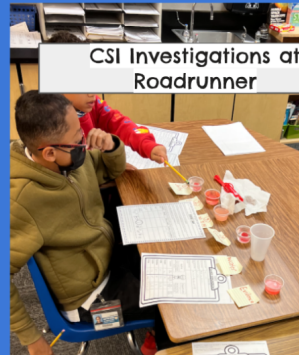
Making "snow" at Moon Mountain



CSI at Maryland



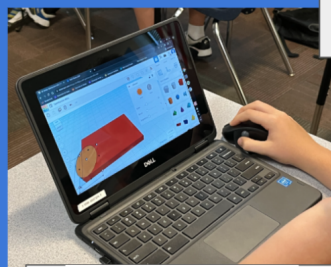
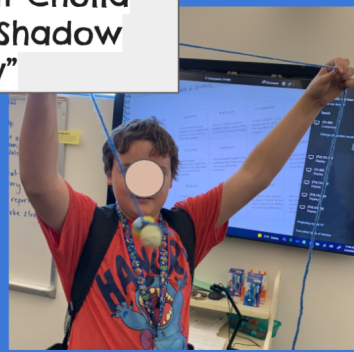
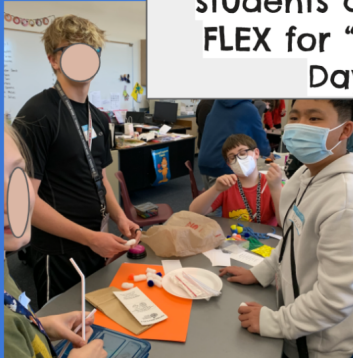
6th graders visit students at Cholla FLEX for "Shadow Day"



CSI Investigations at Roadrunner

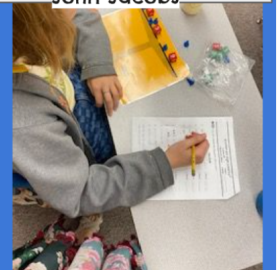


Making recycled paper at Roadrunner



3D Printing at Lookout Mountain

Learning Algebra with hands-on equations at John Jacobs



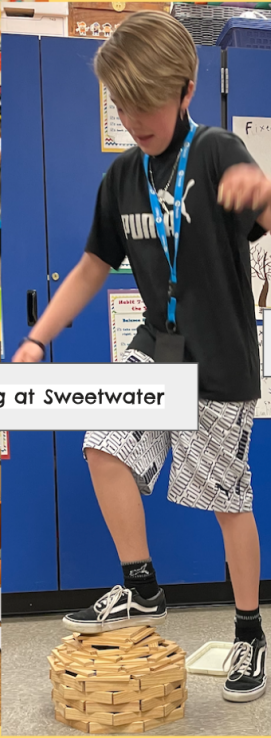




Building robots at Ironwood



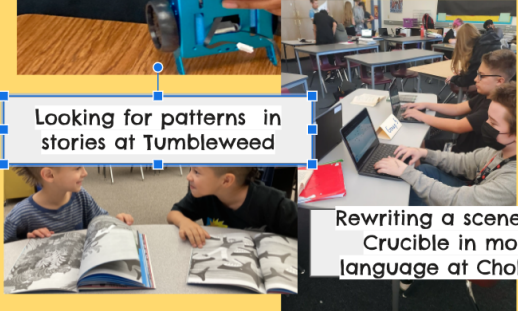
Making cups out of only paper to hold water at John Jacobs



Building at Sweetwater



Engineering at Ironwood



Looking for patterns in stories at Tumbleweed



Rewriting a scene of The Crucible in modern language at Cholla Flex





# WESD STEM



Science, Technology, Engineering and Math!

## SKATE NIGHT



**Wednesday, April 20th**  
**5:00pm – 8:30pm**

*Doors open at 4:30pm • S.T.E.M. Lesson starts at 5:00pm*

**Admission: \$12.00**

**Includes:** Admission, STEM Lesson, Skate Rental, Slice of Cheese Pizza & Small Soda

*Non-skating Adults Admission is \$8*

**See  
you  
there!**

Come meet other gifted students and families. All students are welcome! Our parent group will have a table of resources and info on how to join!

10054 N 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Glendale, AZ 85302

623-842-1181 • [www.greatskateglendale.com](http://www.greatskateglendale.com)

