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October 2016

# Coordinator’s Corner

**With Judith Mansfield, GATE High School Coordinator**

***Ladies and Gentlemen- we have a website!*** As part of our focus on project based learning, Ms. Aaliyah Taylor has worked tirelessly to design a website to house all things GATE Institute. To create this website Aaliyah had to consider more than just web design. She had to consider it an ***information portal*** for current and prospective families, educators and community members. What information would the prospective families want to see? What information would current families like to see? What would be important for the community to see? She had to seek approvals, consider feedback from stakeholders and still meet deadlines. It needed to be ready for our annual “Information Tour,” which stops at middle school sites, community events and an ending event on December 13th, at Hug’s Little Theater. Please take a look: <http://thegateinstitute.weebly.com/>

### UNR College Fair

Please don’t forget about the UNR College Fair THIS Sunday, November 6th! You can register with Dr. Ritch (sophomore site counselor) at Hug this week or at UNR the day of the fair.

High school students will be given the opportunity to interact with college and university reps from 90+ institutions from across the country. In addition, there will be breakout sessions on topics including financial aid and scholarships, college essay writing, the four-year college experience, and strategies to become a competitive college applicant.

University of Nevada, Reno

12 noon-4:00 pm

Joe Crowley Student Union 4th Floor

664 North Virginia Street

Reno, NV 89557

# Social Emotional Learning

**With Molly Ivans, GATE High School Counselor**

This month our classroom guidance lessons focused on executive function and self-regulation skills. We discussed the importance of planning, goal setting, time management, self-management, communication and organization skills, etc. An important take away from this lesson is that we are not born with these skills; these skills require repeated practice and can be improved upon over time. If you would like to obtain more information on this topic, as well as activities that support the development of these skills, please refer to [www.developingchild.harvard.edu](http://www.developingchild.harvard.edu) .

In November we will be discussing research done by Stanford University psychologist Carol Dweck on the topic of growth vs. fixed mindsets; we will explore how mindsets influence opportunities for growth and success in school and in life. I highly recommend Carol Dweck’s book Mindset: The New Psychology of Success. Her website can be found at <http://mindsetonline.com/whatisit/about/index.html> . Another good resource for information on this topic is <https://www.mindsetworks.com/Science/Impact> .

Wishing you a happy Halloween and a wonderful holiday season!

# English

**With John Kocian**

**GT/Acc 1-4--** Have your children seemed a bit more esoteric and abstract lately?  That's because we have transitioned into the wonderful world of poetry, the second major genre of literature we will examine this year.  We will read some of the great works of poetry in the English canon (and some great works out of it, as well).  This should make for some interesting dinner conversation about man's ceaseless search for meaning and other super-poetic concepts.

**GT/AP Language--**We are moving into the next phase of argument, using multiple sources to create an argument.  This serves as question one of the free response questions on the exam, but more importantly, it is a life long skill in our increasingly informed world.  Many opinions circulate as fact, and the students will be learning to sift through them, identify quality claims and use them to support original arguments.  This is the fundamental skill between, as an inscription on a wall in Rome says, those who "study rhetoric" and those who will be "a victim of it."

# History:

**AP European History with Selena LeRue**

In AP Euro we rang in Columbus Day by learning the “true” story of Columbus. You may have gotten an earful from your student about how they had been misled about Columbus when they learned about him in elementary school – I certainly did when we debated his actions in class!  This month we finished our first unit of the semester; which meant our first Unit Test.  For this we took our first AP test simulation, and it was definitely tough for many students, but our kiddos persevered. I think it was a fantastic learning experience for everyone.  The students were able to test their skills for the AP test, but were also able to correct their tests afterward, so nobody was penalized too harshly for a poor performance.  Now we are starting our second unit which covers the 17th-18th centuries.  That means we get to listen to Mozart and Bach, analyze the art movements sponsored by the Sun King, and discuss our feelings on the philosophies of the Enlightenment in our very own salon.  It’s a great unit, and the kids are loving it.  Don’t be surprised if you start to have a little philosopher in your home for the next month!

# Language:

**German with Lori Breuch**

This month in German 1, we are learning about school and the different school systems in German speaking areas of Europe.  Students will select one of these areas for further research and complete a project about school in the area.

In German 3, we are comparing one of the federal states of Germany, Austria or a Swiss Canton with Nevada.  Students have options in how to present this material and demonstrate that they have met the objectives for the unit.

# Fine Arts:

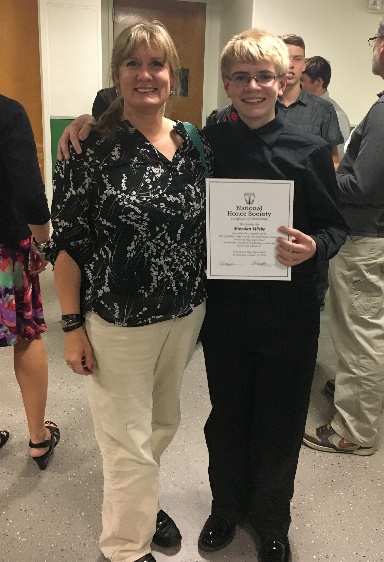
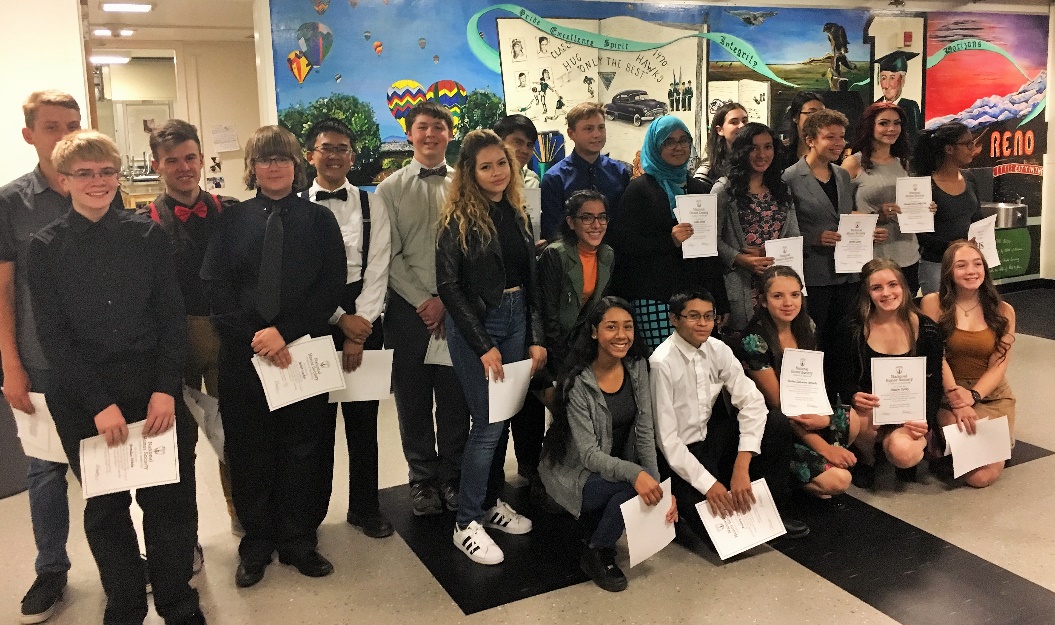
**AP Art Studio with Jen Johanson**

****The Stranger Show started on October 14th and welcomed a huge crowd of friends, family, teachers and community members. 19 students, including GATE Institute students met artists from Reno, and began to collaborate on a piece together that celebrates their identities, their cultures and their community.

**GATE and Music with Kevin Thomas**

The influence of the GATE program and the speed of courses with a mixed student body of high achieving, normal, and gifted learners is a wonderful thing to watch.  These young minds are pushing themselves and their peers through music at a new pace with a much higher accuracy and musicality than ever seen here.  Their talk of honor ensembles and positive peer pressure to get others to audition has our music program buzzing.  All ensembles at our school are able to choose much better quality of literature making for exciting concert programing and potential festival scores.  Lastly, hold on to your hats, because we will have two students audition for Pink Martini and possibly have a chance to perform with them when in Reno. Fingers crossed for our talented students!

# Clubs

**National Honor’s Society with John Kocian** <https://www.nhs.us/parents>

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