

King Elementary &gt; West Middle School &gt; Auburn Academy



# Gifted News

A Newsletter from Parents for Gifted Education (PGE) • District 205

## FALL PGE MEETINGS (Note Schedule Changes)

- Sept 13** (Tues) 6:30 -8 PM  
1307 National Avenue  
**Yolanda Simmons**, Director of Gifted - 7 PM  
(questions or directions? call John 964-8160)
- Oct 17** (Mon) **Informational Meetings**  
WEST 6-7 PM in the West Library  
AUBURN 7:30-8:30 PM in the  
Auburn Auditorium
- Nov 1** (Tues) in the West Library  
6:30-7:00 PM Business Meeting  
7-8 PM **Panel Discussion** with  
King, West, Auburn and Gifted **Administrators**
- Dec 5** (Mon) in the West Library  
6:30-7:00 PM Business Meeting  
7-8 PM **Marketing the Program** to the Community

*Tune in to the superintendent's comments during the 7 PM Oct 12 School Board meeting (channel 20) when PGE makes the official presentation of Ruth Harris' shoes and Ms Simmons updates the district on the Ruth Harris Book Scholarship*

Thank you to parent Georgia Bubert for all the work she invested into acquiring tax exempt status for PGE this summer!

## Gifted Office

The gifted office has moved to West Middle School!  
Director: Yolanda Simmons  
Secretary: Sherry Paye  
Phone Number: 966-3182  
Address: Gifted Program - Administration Office  
c/o West Middle School Room 103  
1900 N. Rockton Av  
Rockford, IL 61103  
Office Hours: 8:00AM - 4:30PM

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Welcome parents and staff to the gifted office housed at West Middle School room 103. Please drop in to ask questions or to just find out more about gifted education.

We have current Gifted News letters, books on gifted education and materials available for check out purposes. We are willing to meet with you at any time to share information, regarding testing, CAPA, the gifted programs K-12 or updates with gifted legislation.

We are pleased to have the opportunity to collaboratively work with you this year. We look forward to expanding the programs, providing vertical & horizontal, articulation with staff, offering staff development to teachers, communicating with parents and working as a team with the central office personnel.

Please come to our meetings and give us the support we need to continue to provide our students with the best educational experience in Rockford.

Have a great year! Yolanda Simmons

## STATISTICS

The Average composite ACT score for the 2005 year –ending Academy is 28.98. Seven seniors scoring in the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile include Tyler Kerr with a perfect score of 36, Laurie Boettcher, Ross Makulec, Colleen Powers and Laura Wilson with 35s, and Patrick Flannagan and JP Roman with 34s.

Advanced Placement Testing completed in May 2005, resulted in Academy students receiving a score of 3 or higher on 82.06% (183 of 223) of the tests taken. Students achieving a 3 or higher on AP exams are eligible to receive college credit for their efforts in many institutions around the nation. Many of our Academy students begin their college careers as sophomores due to the depth of the AP classes available at Auburn.

## Directory Information

Directory forms must turned in by the end of September. They can be mailed to the address on the form or at Auburn, given to your student's English teacher or at King, given to your child's teacher. The directory is a great resource, but is only as good as the information provided by our families. You only get a directory if you sign up to be listed. Your donation helps offset the cost of printing the directories and newsletters. Directory forms can also be accessed electronically online via our Website: PGE205.org

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT UPDATES

Central administration (Dr. Thompson and Martha Hayes) remains adamant. Students will be required to take the AP exam for every AP class in which they are enrolled. Academy administrators, staff and parents have unsuccessfully argued the need to cap the number of tests at 3 per student per year to provide more preparation time since all tests are given during one week each spring.

Through mandatory AP testing the district hopes to achieve more continuity in the coursework between schools. Dr. Thompson also feels students taking these classes should be able to handle the workload of preparation for testing.

Any student on free/reduced lunch will have AP testing fees waived. All Academy students will have fees waived for 5 AP tests in consideration of their requirement as part of the Academy Curriculum.

As of this writing, student's taking dual credit AP classes at RVC must take the AP exam for that course.

GPA's for *all current sophomore, junior and senior students* will be recalculated with "quality points" added for previously completed AP classes. In other words, AP classes will be graded on a 5 point scale, so what was previously worth 4 points ( an A) in the calculation of the GPA will now be worth 5 points.

It has not been decided how or whether the change in GPA will affect the class rank for seniors. Central administration previously stated senior class ranks would be recalculated, but is now having further dialogue regarding that decision.

Sophomores and juniors will have class ranks recalculated with the new GPA's.

Administration has promised to have Senior files updated to reflect these changes by the beginning of Oct to accommodate students applying early decision with current transcripts. Sophomore and junior files will be updated when grades are posted after completion of the first semester.

The Scholar's Diploma will be applicable beginning with this year's freshman. In addition, a .05 one time multiplier will be added following the student's sixth semester.

## ZERO HOUR

Over 140 students are enrolled in the following zero hour classes at Auburn: Concert Band, AP Statistics, Anatomy/Physiology, Latin for English Grammar and Chemistry (added due to lack of lab space for the class during the regular school day). Zero hour students were given the option of bus transportation.

## COUNSELORS' ROLES

At the end of last year, the Auburn administration made the decision to return to counselors assigned alphabetically by student's surnames. By now most Academy families have discovered the value in having had dedicated gifted counselors. The new administration has responded to our concerns by hiring **Tim Keating** (retired from Auburn) part time as a *Counseling Consultant* to work with, and train current counselors in dealing appropriately with, gifted students and issues particular to that population.

Tim will not have his own caseload, but will be available to answer questions and assist your student's counselor.

In addition, thanks to the efforts of Ms. Simmons, **Oma Moore** (retired from Guilford) has been hired part time to assist Tim in meeting the needs of the gifted students at Auburn.

## COMMUNICATION

Director of Gifted Programs, Yolanda Simmons, and Auburn Principal, Janice Hawkins have generously made themselves available for discussions with PGE executive board members. Both are very interested in what parents have to say. If you have a concern at Auburn not resolved through the usual channels of communication (teacher and counselor) Ms. Hawkins would like to hear from you. Likewise, Ms Simmons is interested in speaking with parents who have programmatic issues. Just remember all building issues should first be addressed with Ms. Hawkins. While the communication between the Gifted Office and Auburn administration has been excellent, Auburn administration will continue to be responsible for Academy staff, their evaluations, coursework, as well as all building policies..

## CURRICULUM COORDINATORS

**Dave McCoy** and **Ami Marshall** will share the job of Curriculum Coordinators for the Academy for the 2005-06 school year. Responsibilities of the CAPA curriculum coordinator will be handled by Ms Simmons.

## SENIOR NIGHT

**Wed, Sept 14, 7 PM, Auburn Auditorium**

Junior families are welcome, although a College Night is planned for you on April 26, 2006. Counselors Tim Keating and Oma Moore have planned an agenda to include:

- Transcripts/Applications/Deadlines
- Letters of Recommendation
- Standardized Tests (ACT/SAT)
- College Visits/College Fairs
- Housing
- Scholarships/Offers
- College Representatives at Auburn

2005-2006 School Year Student Directory Registration Form

# King Gifted Elementary, West Gifted Academy, Auburn Gifted Academy

Each year, PGE, in conjunction with the King School PTO, publishes a Gifted Program Student Directory that is distributed or available to all families in the program at King Gifted Elementary, West Gifted Academy and Auburn Academy. This directory serves as an important networking and informational tool for parents and PGE and as a class directory for your child.

**Attention: This form must be filled out to be included in the directory. West and Auburn families must fill out this form to receive a directory. An email address is required to receive updates.**

**Please list only students enrolled in the Gifted Program (King, West & Auburn Academy and CAPA)**

Use **one** form for **all** schools. Do not use a separate form for each school.

STUDENT FIRST & LAST NAME	SCHOOL	GR.

*This is our first year in the gifted program*

### Parent/Guardian #1

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code+4 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Please print clearly)

### Parent/Guardian #2

Print information **only** if different from #1

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code+4 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Please print clearly)

### Special instructions:

All information listed above will be included in the directory unless special instructions are provided below (e.g., Do not list phone number, list only parent #1, do not list e-mail but keep me informed, etc.) **King parents:** please indicate if you do not want to be included in the principal's distribution list.

### Membership

Parent organization membership is free and not required to be included in the directory.

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **PGE** donation - \$10.00 suggested donation will help cover directory and newsletter expenses
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **PGE Teacher Appreciation** Event
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **King PTO** donation
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **West PTO** donation
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Auburn Booster Club** donation
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ I would like to contribute to the Ruth Harris Scholarship Fund
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total** amount enclosed

You may **make out one check payable to PGE** and specify how you want it disbursed. PGE will take care of disbursement. *(Additional donations are also welcome.)*

### Volunteer

I am interested in helping support Gifted Education in Rockford with various volunteer activities checked below. Please contact me.

- Attend district school board and/or committee meetings
- Newsletter collation and distribution
- Volunteer as a PGE Board Member
- Help with Teacher Appreciation Party  
     \_\_\_ provide food \_\_\_ help serve (check one or both)
- I don't know. Call me.

**Please complete this form and turn it in at registration.** If you are not able to do that, please mail your completed form to:

**PGE**  
**7024 Perrietta Lane**  
**Rockford, IL 61107**

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PARENTS FOR GIFTED  
EDUCATION

2302 Trillium Trail  
Rockford, IL 61102

Email: [PGE@rps205.com](mailto:PGE@rps205.com)

PGE ON THE WEB: [PGE205.ORG](http://PGE205.ORG)

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**An Invitation  
For all Parents of Students in the Gifted Program  
Please Join Us  
Tuesday September 13 from 6:30-8 PM at  
The Torrence Residence, 1307 National Avenue**

Plan to spend a low key evening on the river with parents of your student's Academy classmates. Take this opportunity to welcome the new Director of Gifted, Ms Yolanda Simmons, and the new Auburn principal, Ms Janice Hawkins. PGE would especially like to give families new to the program an opportunity to discourse with the veteran parents. We have asked Ms Simmons to take a few minutes (at 7 PM) to speak about her role in the program and listen to any questions, concerns and most importantly, positive experiences parents would like to share.

If you have any questions or need directions please call John at 964-8160