

# Gifted Update

## Gifted Programming at Memorial

Robert Bell, Gifted Intervention Specialist

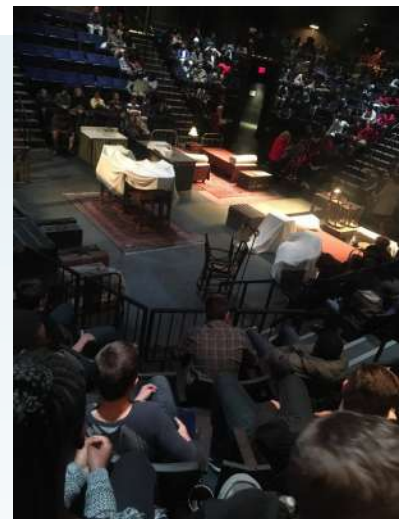
The SEL School District has been supportive of all learners as stated in our core beliefs: Education must focus on the academic, social, emotional, and physical needs of students. This has been manifested in its honors classes in language arts, accelerated math, and honors science. Some of the support these classes have received is using a gifted intervention specialist and co-teaching or “push-in” curriculum. This model assures that the students are working at their challenge level.

Co-teaching is an educational approach whereby general education teachers and the gifted intervention specialist work together to deliver instruction. The two educators work as partners and are responsible for meeting all students’ educational needs.

Some examples implemented in the second quarter using co-teaching / push-in is incorporating parallel novels. In conjunction with the required reading for eighth grade, *The Boy in Striped Pajamas*, our honors students were enriched with the reading of *Anne Frank*. This novel culminated by attending an amazing play production of the book at the Hannah Theater. In seventh grade, our parallel novel is reading *The Hobbit* alongside *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*.

In the math classes the co-teaching model helps with accelerating the curriculum and offering enrichment lessons above and beyond the regular curriculum. Some examples of enhanced math are the Continental Math League problems, the game Equations training, and advanced algebra to name a few.

This cooperation extends beyond Math and Language Arts as well. This quarter, our motivated science students experienced an amazing hands-on anatomy camp at Case that focused on diabetes. Almost fifty 7th and 8th graders attended this workshop. They worked side by side with medical students looking at the causes and consequences of diabetes in the body. This experience allows our students to see first-hand the importance of education, and setting goals toward a great career.



The set of Anne Frank was made in scale to the original annex. The story came alive for the students in an amazing adaption of the novel.



Honors science students at CASE.



Honors science students pose outside of the biomedical engineering building at CASE

# STEP UP Programming / Grades 3—5

Mrs. Gina Arnold

## 3rd Grade STEP-UP

The third grade STEP-UP students completed the unit of study on Bloom's Taxonomy. The students learned all about Bloom's six levels of thinking: Remember, Understand, Analyze, Apply, Evaluate, and Create. They demonstrated their knowledge of Bloom's by applying it in a variety of creative ways. For example, while learning about criteria and how to use criteria to make a valid evaluation grid to determine which bubble gum is the best. They wrote criteria to use in the evaluation of Double Bubble, Extra, Bubblicious, Sour Patch Kids, and Hubba Bubba Max. The criteria that were used to judge the gum include long lasting flavor, bubble blowing ability, flavor/taste, size of pack, and whether or not it sticks to the wrapper. After testing the gum and analyzing the results it was determined that Hubba

Bubba Max was the best as it received the highest score. This was a fun and exciting way to learn about evaluating.

The students have also been working on problem solving challenges including SET game, Nim, Sudoku, and It All Adds Up. All of these challenges required the students to use logic, math and observation skills to complete. Students are continuing to explore their affective development in a variety of ways. They had the opportunity to analyze their own traits and values and their likes and dislikes. After hearing the picture book *The Important Book* by Margaret Wise Brown, the students followed the pattern of the book and created a page about themselves to put into a scrapbook that they are creating.



Third grade STEP UP students testing bubble gum.

## 4th Grade STEP UP

Students have been using the writing process to create their own comic books. After watching videos of comic strip writers and artists, the students have the opportunity to try out the different writing and artistic techniques. Key elements of a comic strip include character, setting, and plot—all conveyed in a few frames through a combination of pictures, captions, and dialogue. The students are conceptualizing stories and telling them through words which are then put together with suitable illustrations to form comic strips. They are responsible for developing the plot and setting, constructing characters, and putting together the elements of emotion, action, and closure.

## Continental Math

All STEP UP students in grades 3—5 participate in Continental Math League, a national math / problem solving competition. Each challenge consists of six multi-step problems that the students have 30 minutes to complete. After every challenge, we review the problems together. The students then have the opportunity to become the teacher and model problem solving strategies that help them to solve complex problems, see that there is more than one way to solve a problem, and gain confidence in their own problem solving abilities. Each grade level will receive five certificates and two medals. National and Regional awards will be distributed to recognize individual and team achievements.



5th graders working together on problem solving strategies for CML.

## 5th Grade STEP UP

Fifth grade STEP UP students have been busy learning about Dr. Howard Gardner's theory of Multiple Intelligences. This theory recognizes the multifaceted profile of the human mind and explains that each person possesses several intelligences in greater or lesser degrees. The intelligences are: verbal-linguistic: word intelligence, logical-mathematical: number and reasoning intelligence, visual-spatial: picture intelligence, musical-rhythmic: music and rhythm intelligence, bodily-kinesthetic: body intelligence, interpersonal: social intelligence, intrapersonal: self-intelligence, and naturalist: natural environment intelligence. The students are enjoying the activities and the opportunity to analyze and evaluate their own strengths and weaknesses.



## 3rd Grade ALPHA Reading Mrs. Marcia Armbruster

The third grade ALPHA reading students at Adrian, Rowland, and Sunview continue to work together in a virtual classroom using Kidblog, a private, secure blogging site for schools where teachers and students can share reading and writing via blog discussions. The students have read and are discussing Jr. Great Book stories "The Rich Man and the Shoemaker" and "Nail Soup" using the Shared Inquiry Method. This strategy allows students to analyze and evaluate decisions the characters make in the stories, what they would do in similar situations, and comment on each other's writing.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate one of my former 3rd grade ALPHA reading students, Skylar Carroscia, who is now a 4th grade ALPHA reading student at Greenview. Skylar entered a writing contest as a 3rd grade ALPHA reading student last year with Stone Soup Magazine, an international children's writing magazine that has been published for many decades. Skylar's story and recipe for "Very Berry Pie" was one of the winning submissions and can be viewed at <https://stonesoup.com/article/very-berry-pie/>



Third grade ALPHA readers busy with Kidblog.



Third grade ALPHA student read and used Venn diagrams to compare / contrast 4 versions of the Cinderella story.



## ALPHA Math

### Grade 6 (Marcia Armbruster)

Greenview 6th grade ALPHA math students learned the ins and outs of the binary number system, also known as Base 2. The students learned the history of this math structure and learned how to complete math problems using only this base. The sixth graders analyzed, completed, and peer taught higher level Continental Math Challenge practice problems, which will continue during the school year. Currently the students are working on solving multistep math and logic problems using the Ted Ed video series. These animated problems are very challenging and give the students a wonderful opportunity to problem-solve in a collaborative group setting. Later in the year, the students will write their own multistep math problem and animate them using an online animation program. Stay tuned!



**Sixth grade ALPHA math students working collaborative to solve a math challenge.**

### 3rd Grade ALPHA Math

The ALPHA math third graders continued their work with algebraic equations and strategies to solve multistep/ multi-operational situational math problems (SUPER Story Problems). Their next higher level math challenge was called Block Out with a Twist. (The original game of Block Out involves two dice and one math operation). Using dice within dice, the students created multistep equations with the four numbers rolled to form both addition and multiplication operations within the same equation. They then came up with their own addition and multiplication equations in order to state the problem in a new and different way, and then translated their original math equation into a visual representation of area on graph paper. Coloring each area a different color gave

Marcia Armbruster them an instant piece of art work! Currently the ALPHA math students are creating a four operational set of math cards where math operations are used together to solve equations, modeled after a higher level multiplication card set called Math Smart. Once they finish working together with their math creative partner, the different partners challenge each other by solving each other's sets of original multi-operational intertwining cards.



**Third graders with Math Smart Cards.**

### 4th Grade ALPHA Math (Mrs. Marcia Armbruster)

Greenview 4th grade ALPHA math students worked on individualized Khan Academy 5th grade math missions online, figuring out math concepts and problems at their own challenge level. They have also worked this quarter on fitting assorted numbers with challenging attributes (prime, composite, square, and triangular numbers to name a few) into advanced Venn diagrams, Carroll diagrams, and a factor and multiples puzzle. These students have also joined Mrs. Arnold's STEP UP class for the Continental Math Challenge and are participating in solving those higher level problems and the analysis, evaluation, and peer teaching that goes along with this experience.

### 5th Grade ALPHA Math (Mrs. Marcia Armbruster)

ALPHA Math 5th graders began a series of challenging math and logic puzzles called Crossmatics. These puzzles use a variety of math concepts and rely on deductive reasoning to aid in their problem-solving, as well as patience and persistence. The students participated in learning and working with the second ancient number system in the series, Roman Numerals. They learned the history behind this number system, beginning and advanced numbers, and how to work math problems using only Roman Numerals. Currently different groups of students are creating original math games for our class to play, all involving only Roman Numerals. Some are computer games, some are board games—one group is even creating a Roman Numeral original chess game and another group is making Roman Numeral Jeopardy!

## ALPHA Reading—Grades 4—6 (Mrs. Gina Arnold)

ALPHA reading students in grades 4—6 have finished their novels. The main focus of the novel study has been to utilize the guidelines of Shared Inquiry. Shared Inquiry is an active and collaborative search for answers to questions about the meaning of the text. It is a method of learning that promotes deeper thinking through reading, writing, and discussion. The students are involved in rich discussions where they have the opportunity to clearly express their ideas, while building upon the ideas of others in the group. The children also had many opportunities to analyze character development, taking note of which characters are dynamic and which are static, while comparing and contrasting themselves to the characters.

All ALPHA reading students also participated in their first of three WordMasters Challenges, a vocabulary competition based on completing word analogies. Analogies help improve vocabulary skills, develop verbal reasoning abilities, address higher order thinking skills and emphasize logic and reading comprehension. The second WordMasters Challenge is scheduled in February.

**Congratulations to 4th grader, Thomas Denk, for a perfect score of 20 on the first WordMasters Challenge!**

Lastly, ALPHA reading students are continuing to keep a log of all the books that they are reading for pleasure. Please check in with your child and find out what they are reading. The children update their lists from time to time and they have the opportunity to do mini “book talks,” to tell about and recommend the books that they are reading to their peers. It is a great way for students to be exposed to different genres of literature.

### 4th Grade ALPHA Reading: Masterpiece by Elise Broach

What happens when a boy and beetle become friends? When the boy is eleven-year old James and the bug is a beetle names Marvin, they solve an art museum heist! During this novel study we are exploring themes of friendship, family and values as we enter into an art mystery and the small world of a very clever beetle!

### 5th Grade ALPHA Reading: Counting By 7's by Holly Goldbury Sloan

This book is the story of Willow Chance, a twelve-year old girl who has been identified at an early age as “gifted”. Willow loses her parents in a car accident. What follows is Willow’s search to find a place where she belongs. In equal parts an exploration of the pain and loss and triumph of moving forward, the novel looks at how one person can change the lives of many, often without trying.

### 6th Grade ALPHA Reading: Three Times Lucky by Sheila Turnage

This 2013 Newberry Honor book is about an eleven-year old girl, Moses LoBeau, who is in search of the real mom she has never known. When a murder happens in her tiny town, her detective skills kick in and she jumps right into the search for the killer. She learns that her best friend is a suspect. Many clues lead to twists and turns that kept us hooked from beginning to end. This story is not just a great mystery, but it taught important lessons about family and friends.



**4th grade ALPHA readers enjoy reading The Masterpiece.**



**5th graders studying for the first WordMasters Challenge.**



**6th graders using Kahoots to study for the first WordMasters Challenge.**



**Another book talk visit from Miss Bethany.**

## Grade 6 STEP UP

Mr. Robert Bell

Aside from our weekly routing of critical thinking, one activity that this group of sixth graders in particular has gained an affinity for, is Lego Education. Lego helps to build creative problem solving skills and enable them to become the critical thinkers and creators of the future. They have been constructing hydraulic lifts, mechanized vehicles, and many other complex apparatus sure to be the building blocks for their futures in engineering.

Cognition is the process of acquiring knowledge through our thoughts, experiences, and senses. Learning involves acquiring knowledge through experience, study, and being taught. These two concepts are almost identical and cannot occur without each other. In grade 6 STEP UP almost every activity is designed to help your child grow along these lines. From our class meetings, to math problem solving, to the fun activities that we do, like Set, Gobblet, and chess competitions, the goal remains the same, acquiring knowledge through experiences!



6th graders using logic to play SET.

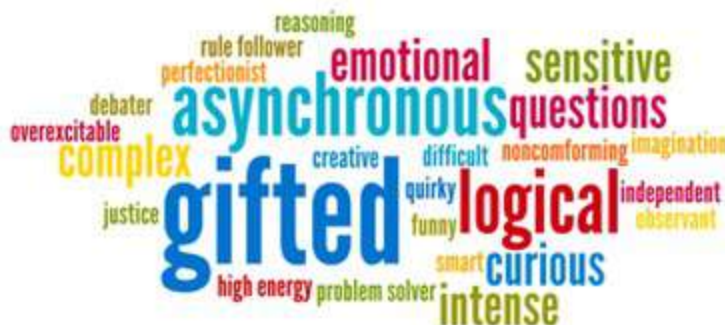


Lego supplies—Ready to create.



STEP UP is a bridge, a little creaky and shaky, but fun to cross. Always an adventure to pursue.

5th grade STEP UP student





## Coordinator's Corner

This year is just racing by and the holidays will be here before we know. The STEP UP teachers, along with the classroom teachers, have been very busy in planning for the gifted and high-end learners in their classrooms. Some of their activities have included:

- H aving to create flexible schedules
  - A dapting curriculum for high-end learners
  - P reparing student plans (WEPs)
  - P retesting where applicable
  - Y ear of new focus for gifted programming
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- H elping to plan academic contests
  - O rganizing Continental Math League and WordMasters
  - L ooking for resources to support high-end learners
  - I ndividualizing activities
  - D eveloping enrichment packets and activities
  - A sking higher level questions
  - Y es, collaborating with classroom teachers
  - S erving the needs of our high-end and gifted learners

We continue to appreciate the support of parents, teachers and administrators. Working together as a team, we can accomplish much for our gifted and high-end learners. Remember that you can always call me with your questions or concerns.

Have a wonderful holiday break,

*Debra Barrickman*

Gifted Coordinator

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