

GATE (5th – 8th Grade)

Academic Content & Skills Summary

Peru Elementary School District 124

In an effort to communicate clear academic expectations to students, parents and the local community, Peru Elementary School District 124 provides Academic Content and Skills Summaries from preschool through eighth grade in the areas of mathematics, language arts, science, social studies, technology, art, music and physical education.

Following is a simple summary of what our children should know and be able to do at each grade level in the area of GATE. All children can learn, even if not at the same pace or in the same way, and ultimately these general skills and content items are what we will strive to accomplish with the assistance of our parents at home.

5th and 6th Grade students will:

Classroom instruction for GATE students is centered around the Problem/Project Based Learning model. Students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging and complex question, problem or challenge. Problems/projects are focused on learning goals and include:

- Key Knowledge, Understanding, and Success Skills – The project is focused on student learning goals, including standards-based content and skills such as critical thinking/problem solving, communication, collaboration, and self-management.
- Challenging Question or Problem – The project is framed by a meaningful problem to solve or a question to answer, at the appropriate level of challenge.
- Sustained Inquiry – Students engage in a rigorous, extended process of asking questions, finding resources, and applying information.
- Authenticity – The project features real-world context, tasks, and tools, quality standards or impact, or speaks to students' personal concerns, interests, and issues in their lives.
- Student Voice and Choice – Students make some decisions about the project, including how they work and what they create.
- Reflection – Students and teachers reflect on learning, the effectiveness of their inquiry and project activities, the quality of student work, obstacles and how to overcome them.
- Critique and Revision – Students give, receive, and use feedback to improve their process and products.
- Product – Students share their project work by explaining, displaying and/or presenting to peers and adults.

7th and 8th Grade students will:

- Use a variety of math and logic problem-solving strategies and articulate how problems are solved
- Analyze human impact on the environment and potential solutions
- Investigate specific time periods in history and make connections to present-day events
- Explore rich fiction and nonfiction texts and analyze author's purpose, point-of-view, and real-world connections
- Use the Design Process to create prototypes with specific criteria and constraints and explain the development of the investigation stages from brainstorming to the sharing of results