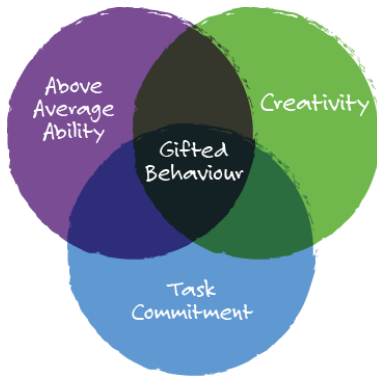


# EXPLORATIONS

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## Faces of GATE: SEM and the Three-ring Conception of Giftedness

“Schools should be places for talent development and all students should have the right and the time to develop their talents.” This is a quote from Dr. Joseph Renzulli, a world-renowned educational psychologist and researcher of gifted identification and pedagogy.



Renzulli’s research on gifted identification is summarized by his Three-ring Conception of Giftedness, which takes a more expansive view of giftedness than does the traditional view that defines it as a score in the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile on an IQ test.

Gifted behavior, rather than an IQ score, determines people’s potentials for making major contributions to society, says Renzulli, whose research shows that gifted behavior lies at the intersection of above-average ability, creativity, and task commitment. This behavior can be developed in students, he says, if we provide them with “the right opportunities, resources, and encouragement, always in the student’s area of interest.”

Focus, perseverance, dedication, and the ability to carry out work, lies in the circle of task commitment. The creativity circle includes original and interesting thinking, curiosity, and openness to new ideas. Above average ability (the top 15 or 20 percent), can be demonstrated in any talent or interest a student has. It can be in a general domain like math, visual arts and life sciences, or in specific abilities like electronic music, jewelry design, and cartooning.

Based on his research on gifted identification, Renzulli developed a system for school improvement called the Schoolwide Enrichment Model (SEM). It aims to use each student’s talents and learning profiles to help them become productive, contributing members of society. Acacia Magnet School for Enriched Learning, an elementary school in CVUSD, uses this model.

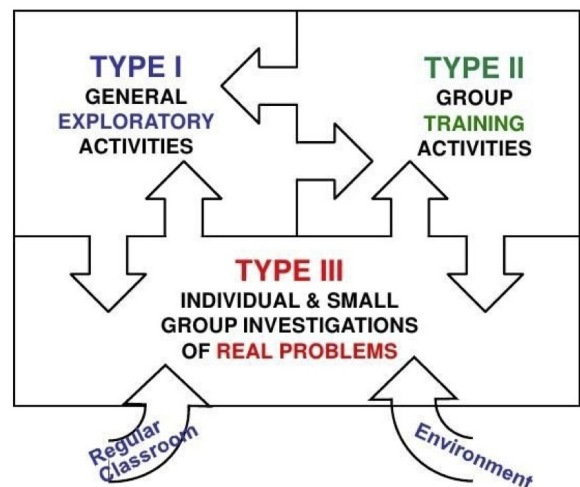
At the heart of SEM is a pedagogical approach known as the Enrichment Triad, which is made up of three different types of activities designed to identify, develop, and support students’ interests and talents.

Type I exploratory activities, allow students to discover their interests and talents through avenues such as field trips, speakers, books, movies, online activities, and competitions.

Type II training activities help kids develop thinking skills, character development skills, learning how to learn skills, researching, communications, and meta-cognitive skills.

Type III real problem activities meet kids where they exhibit their gifted behavior. Students tackle real-life problems and seek creative, productive solutions. They become junior scientists, commu-

### Enrichment Triad



nity organizers, reporters, engineers, or any other type of contributor that emerges from the intersection of their above average ability, creativity and task commitment.

Examples of some Type III real problem activities that kids have done at Acacia Elementary include:

- Investigating the dangers of palm oil and making a PSA to share with other students and teachers.
- Organizing a blood drive for CHLA.
- Researching football injuries with the help of an athletic trainer and a physical therapist and creating exercises that would help prevent some common injuries.
- Researching the power of music with an opera singer and a music therapist and sharing how music helps people heal from injuries, learn more when studying, and communicate without words.

### **Food (and activities) for thought:**

#### **CVUSD GATE web page**

It may be a bit difficult to navigate to the GATE web page from the main CVUSD page, but once you get there, you'll definitely want to bookmark it and keep coming back.

The "GATE Articles/Resources" link toward the bottom left of the GATE page will take you to a treasure trove of resources and articles to help you understand GATE and your gifted child.

The "Remote Learning Enrichment Resources" link takes you to a long list of remote learning resources and online enrichment games.

To get to the GATE page from the main district site, select the "Departments" drop down menu. From there, scroll down to "Student Services," then select "Student Support Services," then "GATE."

You can also get there by selecting the first link in the "Cool Links and Resources" below.

## **Cool Links and Resources**

### **CVUSD GATE GATE page**

<https://www.conejousd.org/Departments/Student-Services/Student-Support-Services/Gifted-and-Talented-Education-GATE>

### **National Association For Gifted Children**

<https://www.nagc.org/>

### **Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted**

<https://www.sengifted.org/>

### **California Association For The Gifted webinar on Schoolwide Enrichment Model**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r60A2rQIG1I&t=1667s>

## **Community Exploration**



*Praying mantis casting a long shadow by lamp light*

Praying mantises sometimes attack humming birds. They eat mostly insects including moths, crickets, grasshoppers, and flies.