



## Vacaville Christian Elementary School

### Gifted and Talented (GATE) Program

Dear Parents,

At VCS we believe that every student is of great value, for each was created in God's image. Each child is unique and has the right to optional development. Our GATE Program is based upon methods of developing and utilizing this uniqueness. We provide a program for the students who are willing to demonstrate their talents in academics, creativity, commitment, and leadership. We believe that our students are gifted in different areas and this program will enable them to use their individual learning styles and special abilities. The program should help develop self-esteem, creative and logical thinking, research, and skills in independent studies.

#### **GRADE 3: Renaissance ~ A Time of Innovation and Inspiration**

Students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade GATE will explore the Renaissance as a time of rebirth of the ideas of ancient Greece and Rome. The exploration and spread of culture and ideas will be studied through the thinking and accomplishments of influential leaders and thinkers of the Renaissance and their contributions in art, literature, and science. Students will participate in critical thinking activities to analyze and evaluate information, then synthesize material to create and present their learning to the class. All students will complete a project in an academic area of choice and present it to the class. The year concludes with the Queen's Feast, a Renaissance feast and presentation for parents and guests.

#### **GRADE 4: Medieval Times ~ A Knight's Quest**

Students in 4<sup>th</sup> grade GATE will experience the concepts and style of medieval life through a first semester literature study of Robin Hood including the characters, actions, and consequences of the story. Study of medieval life and culture such as feudalism, chivalry, and heraldry is woven in to the literary study. Semester 2 focuses on analysis of medieval life as compared to today's world, including the influence of the Church on medieval daily life and the need for a personal relationship with Christ; the influence of "technology" on life in the Middle Ages and technology today; the role of social class and government on life during the Middle Ages and their connection to today through documents such as the Magna Carta. All students will complete an individual project related to the theme in an academic area of choice and present it to the class. The year concludes with the Forest Feast, a medieval feast and presentation for parents and guests.

#### **GRADE 5: Diversity Through Art & Literature**

Students in 5<sup>th</sup> grade GATE will explore character and cultural diversity through a variety of literary studies. Semester I focuses on the Arthurian legend and how character and choice influence consequences. Students will examine life in the Middle Ages through the story setting. Semester 2 includes studies of diverse cultures through comparative Cinderella stories; life messages and morals in Aesop's fables; and the beauty of language in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. Students will study the work of artists in the Middle Ages and Renaissance, as well as more contemporary artists such as Chinese Christian He Xi. Students will attend the San Francisco Shakespeare Company performance of *Twelfth Night* when they come to VCMS in the spring and present a review of the year's study for parents and guests at the Theater Festival at the end of the year.