

# AGATE of Port Washington: A Brief History in Honor of our 25th Anniversary



What does AGATE stand for?

Advocacy for Gifted &  
Talented Education

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## What is AGATE's mission?

At AGATE we believe ALL students deserve an appropriate and challenging education designed to help them achieve their fullest potential.

# What is the definition of gifted?

**The National Association of Gifted Children states:**

**“Children are gifted when their ability is significantly above the norm for their age. Giftedness may manifest in one or more domains...intellectual, creative, artistic, leadership, or in a specific academic field such as language arts, mathematics or science.”**

# How did AGATE of PW begin?

## **Toula Halperin organized local parents in '93-94 school year**

- Advocated for the academic and social-emotional needs of gifted and talented children.

## **Formed a chapter of AGATE of NY in the '96-97 school year**

- Established by-laws, assembled a board, and organized committees.

# Progress:

## Elementary School Level

- Enrichment opportunities for all students, e.g. lunch-time enrichment and push-in K-2
- Maintaining the PEP core group
- Math Olympiad offered to all students
- Advocating for the social-emotional needs of gifted students

# Progress:

## Middle School Level

- Establishment of the seventh grade Accelerated Math program
- Expansion of Accelerated Math and Regents Earth Science to all who qualify
- Ending to the practice of pulling students out of regular classes for PEP
- Advocating for Improvements in Core Extension.
- Math Olympiad offered to all students

# Progress:

## High School Level

- Strengthening the English and Social Studies Honors Projects
- Improving the Research Program
- Advocacy for offering more variety in honors and AP classes, especially in the humanities



# Progress:

## District Level

- Increased funding for administrative support and staff for the enrichment program
- Opposition to budget and programmatic cuts
- Awareness of best practices in gifted education
- Special attention by the guidance counselors to the unique social-emotional needs of gifted students, especially as they transition into middle school and high school
- Professional development in identifying gifted children, the writing process, differentiated instruction, and social-emotional and developmental issues

# How do we advocate?

## **Set our agenda at AGATE Board meetings and participate in multiple district-wide meetings:**

- HSA/PTA President meetings
- Principals & Presidents meetings
- BOE working meetings on curriculum, policy, budget and facilities
- Meetings with AGATE's liaison, Andrew Akapnitis, Director of Guidance
- Meetings with Parents Council
- Meetings with Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Dr. Westervelt
- Meetings with school principals

# How do we educate?

## **Connect with membership and the larger community:**

- Send newsletter with important dates and information
- Update website/Facebook page (LIKE/FOLLOW US!)
- Hold events featuring expert panelists
- Facilitate exchange of ideas/information among parents

**Parenting with Your  
Child's Teacher:**  
Panel of Teacher  
Experts

Dr. Westervelt  
presents:  
**Implementing New  
Arts Standards**

**Meet the BOE  
Candidates**  
(ANNUAL)

09.05.18

01.03.19

03.19.19

04.08.19

05.09.19

**Meet the  
Graduates:** Panel of  
recent Schreiber  
Grads (ANNUAL)

**Teens & Academic  
Stress:** Featuring Dr.  
Susan Bartell

# GOALS

## Enrichment

- Funding for a more robust PEP program, including a PEP teacher in every elementary school and a dedicated administrator
- More opportunities for students in grades K-2

## Humanities

- Improved humanities and writing instruction at Weber
- Improved English and social studies options for advanced learners at Weber and Schreiber
- Greater emphasis on the humanities district-wide

## Research & Honors Projects

- Advocacy for improvement to projects including parents communication and rubrics

# Goals cont.

## **Core Extension**

- Explore innovative ways to use this time for enrichment for all students

## **Mental Health & Wellness**

- Explore ways we can be more responsive to students' mental health and wellness needs

## **Increase community awareness & membership**