

How does BVPAGE support teachers?

BVPAGE provides an outlet for parents, a voice and a vote on educational issues, volunteers willing and available help with projects, and grants for gifted classrooms.

Time to listen: So many draws on a classroom teacher's time can prevent them from having in depth conversations about individual students. BVPAGE is an outlet for parents to talk with other parents at length about the challenges and joys of having a gifted child. In addition, BVPAGE is a place to talk about non-school related issues and activities.

A voice on behalf of education: While teachers aren't always able to share their thoughts on issues or legislation, BVPAGE acts as a conduit to raise issues at a district level and rallies parent support when legislation has the possibility to affect gifted education or education as a whole.

Here to help: With nearly 600 families in our membership, we can offer assistance with projects, volunteers, or contacts if teachers ask.

Grants: BVPAGE has been able to provide numerous grants to every gifted classroom in the Blue Valley school district. Multiple years of grants have allowed gifted classrooms to have resources they may otherwise not have access to. These grants allow teachers to purchase items for their classrooms that they otherwise would not have.

BVPAGE's Top 10 Tips

These are a few things we hear regularly at meetings and in discussions. As you sort through what it means to have a gifted child, our parents offer them to you as support.

1. You are not alone.
2. Gifted is an opportunity, take the opportunities that are offered.
3. It's okay for your child to be different.
4. Kids will find their peer group with others like them.
5. Gifted is not the answer to everything; you still need to advocate for your child.
6. Work with the gifted team; we all are on your child's side.
7. Gifted looks different in every child; their path will be different, too.
8. SENG model parent groups are a safe place for parents to talk about the unique experience of raising gifted children.
9. Parents need to learn too. Learn what is possible in the gifted education world.
10. BVPAGE parents have been there, done that, heard that, tried that, signed that, talked to it, asked about it, laughed about it, sympathized about it, and celebrated it. Come join us.



www.bvpage.org



Your child has been identified as Gifted...

Now what?

Congratulations! Your child has just been given a fantastic opportunity – and so have you! As the parent of a gifted child, you are invited to join Blue Valley Parent Advocates for Gifted Education (BVPAGE).



What is BVPAGE?

BVPAGE (Blue Valley Parent Advocates for Gifted Education) is a parent group that advocates to enhance services for all Blue Valley School District gifted students and provides information and support for their parents, gifted teachers, and the gifted education program.

Due to privacy laws, BVPAGE is not notified when a child is identified as gifted. Please join our email distribution list at www.bvpage.org to receive monthly updates.

How can BVPAGE help me?

BVPAGE provides access to multiple resources for parents to connect, gather information, and ask questions.

Parent Connections: Sometimes parenting a gifted child can feel lonely. But in BVPAGE, you are in a group of peers: our members are parents of gifted children, just like you. We have children ranging in age from Pre-K through adulthood. We parent kids with every imaginable triumph and struggle: kids who are subject and/or grade accelerated, motivated and unmotivated kids, gifted kids who also have a disability, identified kids with unidentified siblings, and much more. The opportunity to talk with other parents who are in your same situation or have passed through it is invaluable.

Informational Monthly Meetings: We hold meetings to provide information, access to resources, to collect information when needed, and to provide emotional support to other parents. Our monthly meetings typically include a discussion topic and time for parents to connect with others. Examples of past topics include: Gifted education curriculum and IEPs, whole grade and Math acceleration, the gifted identification process, Blue Valley school curriculums, and the Johnson County Library website system.

SENG Model Parent Groups: We sponsor small group sessions with facilitators to discuss and learn how to better support the social and emotional needs of gifted children as a parent. The eight-week session covers multiple topics from Dr. James Webb's book, *A Parent's Guide to Gifted Children*, and is a (can't say invaluable again) source of information and connections to others.

How does BVPAGE support my child?

BVPAGE empowers parents with the information needed to support their children, resources for activities, provides grants to gifted education classrooms, and closely works with the school district to advocate for all gifted students.

Parents as Team Members: BVPAGE encourages parents to advocate on behalf of their individual child – as a positive, supportive team member. Parents working as part of the child's academic team benefits everyone. The team understands the whole child and the student gets the educational experience they need.

Activities for Kids: We host a variety of programs to provide opportunities for kids to be involved and get to know one another outside of the traditional gifted classroom.

- **Brain Blizzard** is a fun, team-based trivia, logic, and general knowledge event for 7th and 8th grade gifted students.
- The **District Robotic Share Fair** is a District and BVPAGE co-sponsor an event where 5th grade students from Blue Valley elementary schools come together during the school day to compete in various robotic challenges.
- The **Summer Robotics Camps** offer a variety of choices for kids interested in robotics who have finished 2nd through 7th grades.
- The **Summer Opportunities Fair** is an open house for families to gather information about classes, camps, and activities geared at gifted and high ability students.

Grants to Gifted Education Classrooms: As funding allows, BVPAGE grants money directly to every gifted classroom in the school district. The interests of the students in each gifted classroom drive the decision for items that are purchased each year. Examples of past purchases include: Marble run kits, stock market simulation kits, architectural design materials, ACT/SAT preparation materials, robot kits, movie making and animation software, books, and catapult, and bridge design kits. BVPAGE has also given gifts to the classrooms, including NXT Robotics kits, Lego kits and original curriculum for robotics challenges, what else?

Collaboration with District: While BVPAGE is not part of the District, we have a positive relationship that allows for mutually beneficial collaboration. We often have speakers from the District Office at our monthly meetings and our relationship offers a unique opportunity to gather information in conjunction with the District, share it with members, and then provide feedback.

One example of this collaboration is the addition of a high-level math class for senior year high school students. Prior to this, any student who had accelerated a year in school would have completed all available math classes in their Junior year. With BVPAGE as a catalyst and partner, the school district addressed the issue and implemented a solution.

Author Visits: BVPAGE has sponsored several authors who have provided separate educational sessions for district personnel and parents. Most recently Dr. James Webb addressed characteristics of gifted students to help teachers identify them.