

Pine Point joins Stanford in accelerated math program, *The Westerly Sun*, Published on 2/6/2007

STONINGTON – Pine Point School and Stanford University’s Education Program for Gifted Youth have established a research partnership to address the needs of students who might benefit from an accelerated math program.

The Education Program for Gifted Youth is an ongoing research project at Stanford dedicated to developing computer-based multimedia courses in mathematics, physics, English, computer programming and other subjects, and making these available to students of high ability. For now, the partnership will focus on mathematics.

In early December of last year, Susan Kozel, Pine Point’s Assistant Head of school, and math teachers Diana Owen and Jennifer Peterson, traveled to California and met with members of the program’s staff. EPGY has been explored by Pine Point’s math department to address the needs for differentiation and its growing population of highly capable students. Stanford’s staff was impressed with the educational philosophy and overall success of Pine Point, and asked that the School become a formal research partner with them to refine a differentiated math curriculum.

EPGY provides students in grades K- 7 with advanced courses regardless of where they live, and can do so without requiring them to leave their normal school environment. The teacher-facilitated, individualized instruction accommodates individual differences in student learning, and it allows students to progress at their own pace and to accelerate their education.

Currently, there are three aspects being developed: the Educational Program for Gifted Youth (for qualified students), the Stanford math program (more broadly offered), and an online EPGY high school laboratory site.

Ten students in 4th, 5th, and 6th grades have already qualified to participate in the program and will begin on February 5th. The students are identified after noteworthy classroom performances and recommendations from their classroom teacher. Mathematics Department members then observe each student, after which a rigorous Comprehension Mathematical Ability Test is administered.

To qualify, a student must score three standard deviations above the norm for their representative grade level.

In addition to the above, a student must also have demonstrated motivation and independent work habits. Other students, including members of the kindergarten and second grade, are currently being evaluated.

“The beauty of the program, besides being an advanced curriculum,” said Kozel, “is that a teacher will oversee each student’s work, advise individually, and provide the ‘ human’ support that both Pine Point and Stanford feel is essential to the learning process.”

Pine Point School intends to make this program available to the larger community, and families can apply to determine if their child qualifies for acceleration.

Fees will apply for the evaluation as well as for the coursework.