



GATE & MONTESSORI MEETING

November 30, 2022

**Dr. Elena Castro, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services
Dr. Audry Garza, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, & Staff Development**

AGENDA:

- **Welcome & Introductions**
- **Q & A in chat**
- **Review Current GATE Program**
 - Purpose
 - Schools
 - Grades
 - Staffing
 - Eligibility
- **Review Current Montessori Program**
 - Purpose
 - School
 - Grades
 - Staffing
 - Eligibility
- **Feedback from attendees**
- **Next Steps**



Welcome & Introductions



Questions & Answers in the chat

Purpose of GATE Program:

- The Gifted and Talented Education Program (GATE) provides an intellectual and academic component based on state and district standards.
- Centered around differentiated and expanded instruction focused on higher levels of cognitive thinking skills that exceed the standards of our general education course of study.
- Provides services through language arts, and social studies core classes.

Schools & Grades with GATE Program:

- Burbank Elementary School
 - Grades 2-6
- Wright Elementary School
 - Grades 4-6
- Hoover Middle School
 - Grades 7-8
- Rivera Middle School
 - Grades 7-8

GATE Program Staffing:

- There are ten GATE teachers in the MCSD.
- One GATE teacher is fully certified.
- Six GATE teachers are in the process of completing certification (University of San Diego).
- Three are not certified but will likely complete certification within the next 18 months.

GATE Program Eligibility:

- 90th percentile rank or higher on the Naglieri Nonverbal Abilities Test - Third Edition (NNAT-3).
- The assessment window opens late January 2023.
- Universal Screening administered in grades 1 through 3. Future years will be in Grade 1 only.
- Request to test will be granted for those scholars who do not have a NNAT score on file, have not tested within the last 12 months, or who are new to the Merced City School District.



District GATE Website IN PROGRESS:

<https://www.mcsd.k12.ca.us/District/Department/10-Educational-Services/Portal/gifted-and-talented-education-gate>

Other communication will be sent via Parent Square: <https://www.parentsquare.com/districts/346>

Purpose of Montessori Program:

- To encourage the development of the whole child by providing a comprehensive Montessori education, cultivating independent thought and foundational skills, as well as awareness of their environment, empathy for others, social ease and confidence.
- To inspire academic excellence while nurturing creativity, curiosity, and imagination.
- Provide a public Montessori program as a free educational option for our families.

Schools & Grades with Montessori Program:

- Givens Elementary School
 - PreK
 - TK/K
 - Grades 1-3
 - Grades 4-6

Montessori Program Staffing:

- There are four Montessori teachers in MCSD.
- Three have Montessori certification.
- One will complete certification by June 2023.

Montessori Program Eligibility:

- All children in Merced City School District are eligible for the Montessori program so long as they meet age requirements for enrollment.
- The window for School of Choice requests is Jan. 9-May 5, 2023.



District Montessori Website IN PROGRESS:
<https://www.mcscd.k12.ca.us/District/Portal/montessori>

Other communication will be sent via Parent
Square: <https://www.parentsquare.com/districts/346>

Thank you!

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Feedback from Attendees

Questions & Answers

Next Steps:

- Printed Q & A
- Family GATE and Montessori Info Nights
- Other communications sent via PS