

Kyrene Gifted Education

Kyrene offers a variety of gifted services at all schools



We believe that a gifted student's potential requires differentiated instruction.

To this end, we have developed strategies

to provide instruction integrated

throughout the school day.



Gifted Services at all Schools

All Kyrene schools offer gifted services to address the natural abilities of students who require differentiated instructional programming throughout the school day.

Key features of gifted services include:

- Continuum of services across K-8 aligned with National Association of Gifted Children (NAGC) standards
- Gifted certified teacher at every elementary school, providing resource services and consulting with classroom teachers
- Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) facilitators at every middle school teaching courses, developing curriculum, and providing professional development for teachers
- High expectations for all gifted learners as evidenced in relevant and challenging activities that enhance critical thinking, creativity, and problem solving
- Ongoing use of multiple approaches to accelerate and extend learning

Eligibility and testing

Gifted students are defined as those who score at or above the 97th percentile on a test for gifted identification approved by the Arizona State Board of Education. Children may qualify in one or more of three areas: verbal reasoning, quantitative (math) reasoning, and non-verbal reasoning.

Kyrene makes group testing available to students at their school site three times per year on designated dates. Students may only test once each school year and up to three times total in grades K through 8. Referrals for gifted testing for children from kindergarten through eighth grade come from teachers, parents, and students.

Elementary School Services

Gifted Resource Model (Grades K, 1, and 2)

Gifted teachers provide direct resource services to students for 60 to 90 minutes a week in pull out or push in model. The focus of this resource support is development of thinking skills as well as support in a student's particular area(s) of giftedness. *(All elementary schools except Mirada and Monte Vista)*

Gifted Academic Enrichment Model (Grade 3, 4, and 5)

Students identified as gifted receive 120 to 180 minutes of academic enrichment a week delivered by a gifted teacher specialist. Students are grouped by grade level and receive instruction aligned with grade level content standards and themes with a STEM/STEAM or Humanities focus. The academic enrichment modules are interdisciplinary, problem or project-based, aligned to NAGC standards, and embed social emotional supports. *(All elementary schools except Mirada and Monte Vista)*

Academic Replacement Model (Math Grades 4 and 5)

Students identified in the area of quantitative reasoning participate in a mathematics academic replacement model along with academically talented students. This opportunity is a general education initiative; the advanced math course is taught by classroom teachers with specialized training in mathematics content and strategies for meeting the needs of gifted and advanced learners. These classes occur during the math block for a grade level. *(All elementary schools)*

Gifted Cluster Classroom Model (Grades 1-5)

At each elementary school without a self-contained gifted program, it is recommended that students in grades 1 through 5 who are identified as gifted are clustered, or grouped together, in a mixed-ability classroom. Research shows there are positive student outcomes with this approach. This model allows for focused pacing, a greater depth of understanding, and differentiation in all subjects. The goal is to provide challenging curriculum and instruction throughout the school day, rather than in one isolated period. The cluster teachers are supported by a gifted specialist at each school who assists with planning and implementing differentiated curriculum and instruction. *(Select schools)*

Self-Contained Gifted Model

Self-contained gifted classrooms are available at two Kyrene elementary schools starting in Grade 2. In the self-contained classes, gifted students are grouped together all day, every day. Students who qualify for this program benefit from the support and challenge provided by a peer group of students with similar academic interests and abilities. Self-contained gifted classes follow regular class size guidelines and students participate in the school's regular art, music and physical education curriculum. Structures such as orientation activities, social events, buddy classes and lunches with the principal are in place to promote student and parent interaction with the rest of the school community. *(Mirada and Monte Vista)*



Middle School Services

The Middle School Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Pathways provide for advanced learning in all four core content areas at every middle school. Courses are designed to meet the needs of gifted learners in four domains: challenge, complexity, choice and control. Specially trained, caring teachers understand differentiation and provide social emotional supports. Gifted teachers will employ advanced instructional strategies, higher depth of knowledge, differentiation in product and process, and flexible grouping as well as interest surveys, independent projects, and learning menus.

Additionally, the Second Step SEL (Social-Emotional Learning) Program will be implemented in all middle schools during advisory period. Social-emotional lessons teach students techniques to gain confidence, set goals, make better decisions, collaborate with others, and navigate the world more effectively.

The gifted teacher at your child's school is able to answer questions regarding gifted services.

For more information:

Beth Snyder, Gifted Coordinator

(480) 541-1282

www.kyrene.org/gifted