



Assessment and Student Outcomes

2026-2027 Middle School GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) Course Placement Guidance Summary

In recent years, we have used state and local assessment data to guide placement into middle school GATE courses. The criteria outlined in this document is modeled upon statistical analysis. While no criteria is all inclusive, students with the enumerated characteristics are likely to demonstrate success in GATE courses. Placement tests are not needed except for placement into higher level mathematics courses or for new students.

Criteria for Students who have Partially Met Criteria

Students who have partially met the outlined placement guidance may be recommended into GATE courses. Consideration may be given to additional data, teacher recommendation, parent request, participation in AVID electives, and participation in summer or tutoring programs. Data review and final course scheduling is determined by each middle school. Students in GATE courses will acknowledge and adhere to course commitments that outline the expectations of the course, characteristics of successful students, and supports available.

Criteria for New Students

The course of study for new students can be determined in a variety of ways. These include but are not limited to ELA and mathematics placement assessments, data available from other assessments, information from families, and information from school transfer records about previous course of study and performance.

Scholarly Habit Considerations for GATE Placement

Students who display academic talent but are not identified as gifted typically perform well in GATE classes. Described below are academic behaviors to consider when determining core course placements for students.

- Is eager to explore new concepts
- Exhibits intellectual intensity
- Effectively interacts with adults or older students
- Is self-aware
- Uses alternate processes
- Has intense interests
- Shows compassion for others
- Is sensitive to larger or deeper issues of human concern
- Thinks “outside the box”

Placement Guidance for Middle School Students

Placement guidance is provided for students in transition between elementary and middle schools. This guidance is provided to elementary schools, 5th grade teachers, parents, and middle schools. The sections to follow outline placement guidance for:

- 5th to 6th grade GATE English Language Arts, Social Studies, Science
- 5th to 6th grade GATE Mathematics

Course placements in grades 7 and 8 typically follow the program of study established in grade 6.

5th to 6th grade GATE English Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science

To ensure educational rigor, the Kyrene GATE learning environments will provide students a variety of opportunities to explore real world open-ended problems that are relevant and appropriately challenging. Additionally, the GATE Pathways program of study will address the emotional and social needs of individuals, accomplished by identifying student interests, strengths, and gifts. Students will interact with peers in flexible grouping, work with mentors, participate in goal setting, and reflect on their own progress. In GATE ELA, units of study are consistent with the grade level course; the novels read as well as projects and activities are differentiated. In GATE Social Studies and GATE Science, units of study are consistent with the grade level course; projects and activities are differentiated.

Reading and writing skills are the most critical components for success in GATE ELA, Social Studies and Science courses. Therefore, the criteria listed in the table should be considered when recommending placement in any of these courses. Math acuity can be given additional consideration when reviewing placement into GATE Science. Students who demonstrate strength in the area described below will likely be successful in GATE ELA, Social Studies and/or Science.

Option	Placement Considerations	Placement Guidance
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scores highly proficient on ELA state assessments • Scores in the highest achievement category of district Reading/ELA assessments • Earns “A”s or “B”s in core content areas 	GATE ELA, Social Studies, Science
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scores highly proficient or proficient on ELA state assessments • Scores in the highest achievement category of district Reading/ELA assessments • Earns “A”s in core content areas • Contributes consistently to class discussions and responds to peers effectively • Forms and defends viewpoints both verbally and in written form, while exhibiting diverse ways of thinking, inclusion of prior knowledge, and textual evidence • Makes connections across documents to draw conclusions • Self-assesses and reflects on quality of work • Uses feedback effectively to improve product output or understanding of material • Exhibits mathematics acuity for placement in GATE Science 	GATE ELA, Social Studies, Science
3 Gifted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 97%+ in verbal • 97% in nonverbal or quantitative paired with 85%+ in verbal 	GATE ELA, Social Studies, Science

5th to 6th grade GATE Mathematics

For GATE mathematics, placement tests may be needed to determine student readiness to skip courses into higher advanced mathematics.

- Students who have taken Math 5 are likely to be successful in Math 6.
- Students who have been successful in Compact Math 5b/6 are likely to be successful in GATE Math 7.
- Students with beginning of the year i-Ready scores of Late Level 5 or greater may be able to take GATE Math 8.