

26-27 GATE Program Overview

Our GATE program uses a pull-out model designed to provide enrichment beyond the regular classroom curriculum. Rather than simply extending grade-level work, students engage in critical thinking, creativity, problem-solving, collaboration, and inquiry-driven, project-based learning that challenges them to think deeply and make meaningful connections.

Instruction emphasizes depth and complexity, real-world applications, and the top three levels of Bloom's Taxonomy—analyzing, evaluating, and creating. Students are encouraged to ask questions, investigate ideas, develop solutions, defend their thinking, and create original products.

The program provides enrichment across a variety of disciplines. In mathematics, students explore the contributions and discoveries of famous mathematicians while applying mathematical thinking in new and challenging ways. In the humanities and arts, students explore art history and appreciation from prehistoric art through contemporary works, learning to analyze artwork within its historical and cultural context. Students are also exposed to foreign languages, including Spanish, French, and Italian. This provides opportunities for them to explore language and culture beyond the traditional curriculum.

A strong emphasis is placed on real-world learning and exploration through field trip experiences. Students have opportunities to visit and learn from institutions such as the Natural History Museum, Forest Lawn Museum, Norton Simon Art Museum, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Museum of Tolerance, and Getty Villa. These experiences allow students to connect classroom learning to authentic places, ideas, experts, and cultural experiences.

We want every student to be successful in GATE. To help students meet the expectations of the program, the following process will be used:

Expectations:

- Students are expected to complete assigned work both in class and at home.
- Students are expected to demonstrate appropriate behavior and follow classroom expectations.
- If a student consistently struggles to meet these expectations, they will first receive a verbal warning. After the verbal warning they will receive a deficiency notice.
- A deficiency is a warning and an opportunity to make improvements. It lets the student and family know that changes are needed.
- After two deficiencies, the teacher and parent/guardian will work together to create an action plan.

The action plan will include:

- Areas that need improvement
- Specific goals and expectations
- A timeline for improvement
- Next steps or consequences if expectations are not met, which may include possible removal from the GATE program

Our goal is always to support students and help them be successful. This process is designed to give students the opportunity, support, and guidance they need to make positive changes and get back on track.

GATE homework will be unfinished assignments from class or working on a long-term project. They can easily split it up over several nights into 15-20 minute chunks. Work is expected to be turned in the following week unless otherwise noted on a project timeline.

Ultimately, the goal of our program is to expand students' thinking rather than simply give them more work, by providing opportunities to explore, question, create, collaborate, and make connections that extend well beyond the traditional classroom.