

KYRENE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Welcome Prospective Scorpions!

GATE Prep Parent Presentation

KMS ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

6th Grade GATE Prep Program Teachers



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KMS ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

What It Means to Be a GATE Student

Understanding Gifted Learners

Gifted learners bring curiosity, strong reasoning, and a readiness for challenge. At KMS, they are part of a rigorous cohort experience that encourages deeper thinking, meaningful exploration, and academic growth.

ACADEMIC RIGOR



Think Deeper

Students go beyond surface-level learning and engage with greater depth, complexity, and independence.

HANDS-ON LEARNING



Explore Further

Students apply their learning through inquiry, discussion, and meaningful projects that connect ideas to the real world.

COMMUNITY & CHOICE



Grow Together

Students learn in a cohort of like-minded peers while also exploring their interests through electives and shared experiences.

More depth, more opportunity, and more meaningful challenge.

IB Middle Years Programme

Three Key Features That Make a Difference



1 Approaches to Learning (ATL) Skills

Students build skills that go beyond content, helping them become independent, confident learners — now and in the future.

KEY ATL SKILLS INCLUDE:

- Communication
- Collaboration
- Organization
- Research
- Self-management



2 Service Learning

Through meaningful service projects, students apply what they learn to make a positive impact in their communities and beyond.

IT BUILDS:

- Empathy and global citizenship
- Real-world problem solving
- Leadership and initiative
- A sense of purpose



3 Interdisciplinary Units

Students explore big ideas by connecting concepts and skills across subject areas, showing how knowledge works together in the real world.

THIS APPROACH HELPS STUDENTS:

- Make deeper connections
- See multiple perspectives
- Think more broadly and creatively
- Understand the bigger picture

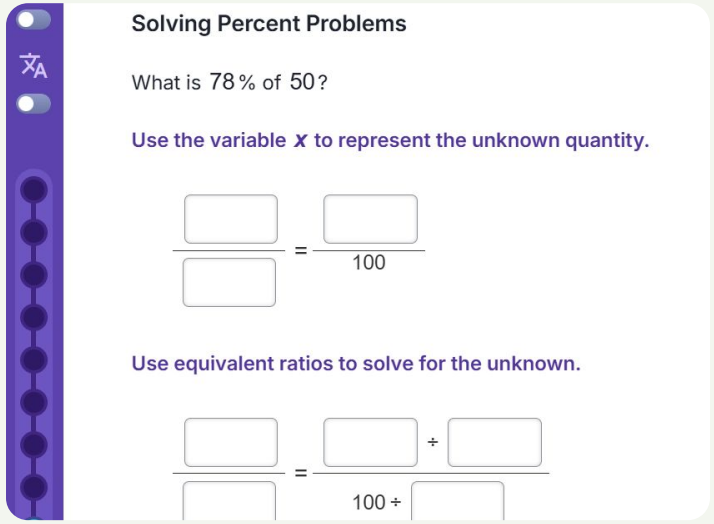
Real Learning • Stronger Connections • A Brighter Future

Math Pathways

Accelerated math trajectories and course sequences at KMS.

6th to 8th

Accelerated pathway compacting middle school curriculum to prepare students for Algebra in 7th grade.



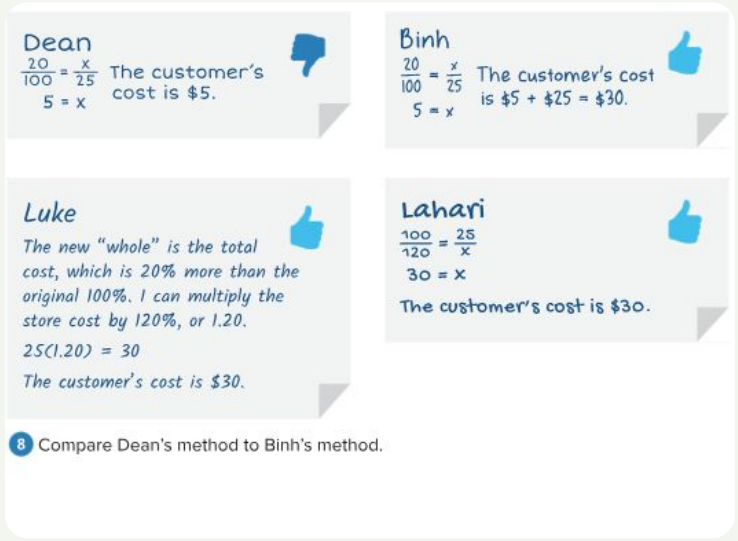
7th to Algebra

High school credit Honors Algebra I course designed for advanced 7th grade mathematics students.



8th to Geometry

Advanced Honors Geometry coursework for 8th graders completing prerequisite high school Algebra.



GATE Science at KMS

Advanced, inquiry-based scientific exploration paired with real-world engineering competitions.

Main Course Focus Areas

Properties of Matter

Deep dive into dynamic structures & physical/chemical phenomena

Ecosystems

Complex ecological balance, biodiversity, and environmental impacts

Space Systems

Planetary science, astronomy, and universe mechanics

Student Competitions

Future City Competition

Applying engineering & urban planning principles to design sustainable cities of the future.



Biomimicry Challenge

Solving real-world human challenges through nature-inspired engineering solutions.

GATE Language & Literature

Curriculum Overview & Guiding Essential Questions

"Kids who read are dangerous."



QUARTER 1

Growing Up

Narrative Focus

What are some challenges and triumphs of growing up?

Anchor Novel

Becoming Naomi León
by Pam Muñoz Ryan

QUARTER 2

Extraordinary People

Informational Focus

What makes people extraordinary?

Curriculum Unit

Biographical & Non-Fiction Studies

QUARTER 3

Living With Technology

Argumentative Focus

Is technology helpful or harmful in our lives?

Curriculum Unit

Persuasive & Debate Writing

QUARTER 4

Natural Allies

Informational Focus

How do animals and humans interact?

Anchor Novel

Flush
by Carl Hiaasen

OVERARCHING LITERARY INQUIRY QUESTIONS

"How does my author make their claim?"

"What is the goal of my writing and how do I get there?"

"How do the themes connect to the world around me?"

6th Grade GATE Individuals & Societies

Focus: Global Studies — Early Civilizations to Renaissance & Reformation

Main Course Focus Areas

Geography & the Origins of Societies

Examining physical environment, natural resources, and early human settlement patterns.

Emergence of Complex Societies

Analyzing social structures, governance, culture, and technological innovation.

Expanding Societies & Exchange

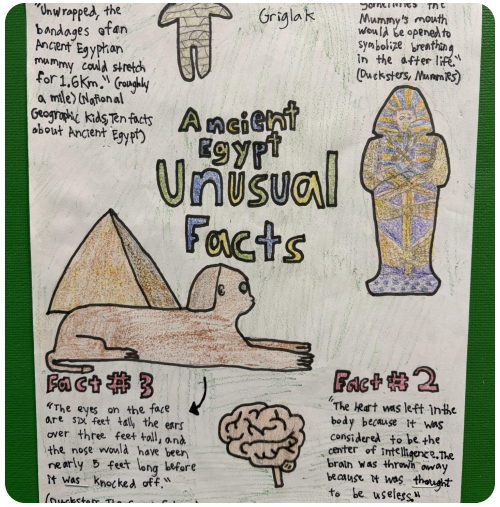
Investigating trade networks, cultural diffusion, and interregional growth.

Patterns of Interregional Unity & Trade

Connecting global themes through the Renaissance and Reformation eras.

Instructional Approach & Student Work

- **Inquiry-based & student-centered learning**
- **Research skills & DBQ (Document-Based Question) practice**
- **CER (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning) & cause-and-effect analysis**





KMS ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Parent & Student Perspectives

PARENT PERSPECTIVE

A family's view of the GATE experience at KMS.

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

A student's take on the challenges, opportunities, and what they enjoy most.

Explore. Challenge Yourself. Make Memories.

KMS Student Schedules

Every student's schedule is built from three parts — core academics, a world language, and electives.

4

Core Classes

- Individuals and Societies
- Language and Literature
- Mathematics
- Sciences

1

Language Acquisition

Choose one

- Mandarin Chinese
- Spanish

3

Elective Course Options

Pick a pathway

- 4 semester-long electives
- 1 year-long + 2 semester-long electives
- 1 year-long + 2 semester-long + 0-hour PE

KMS Student Schedules

A sample student schedule — every student receives their own personalized version.

Example: 7th Grade Student — Quarter 1

Quarter 1					
1	YR	SS GATE 7-1-7Y1	SS GATE 7 - Gate Social Studies 7	Bazuin, B.	G103
2	YR	BAND ADV-1-78Y2	BAND ADV - Advanced Band	Ryan, S.	L102
3	YR	MA GATE 8-2-67Y3	MA GATE 8 - Gate Math 8	Hall, S.	G102
4	YR	LA GATE 7-3-7Y4	LA GATE 7 - Gate Language Arts 7	Banks, J.	G101
5	YR	LUNCH-2	LUNCH - Lunch	Staff, L.	Cafeteria
6	S1	THEATRE-1-78F6	THEATRE - Theatre	Passmonick, E.	L104
7	YR	MANDARIN 1-1-78Y7	MAND CHINESE 1 - Mandarin Chinese 1	Zhao, X.	G204
8	YR	SC GATE 7-3-7Y8	SC GATE 7 - Gate Science 7	Schack, D.	G107
9	YR	ADVISORY-3-68Y9	ADVISORY - Advisory	Banks, J.	G101
10	YR	IBPROJECTS-3-68Y10	IB PROJECTS - IB Projects	Banks, J.	G101

HOW TO READ IT

Per — Class period

S1 — 1st semester

S2 — 2nd semester

YR — All year

GOOD TO KNOW

Advisory / IB Projects meets Tuesday & Thursday and is the student's first class those days — even though the schedule lists periods 9 and 10.

KMS STUDENT LIFE

Exploratory Courses at KMS

KMS

Find your passion. Explore new skills. Discover what you love.

1 CREATE & COMMUNICATE

- Audio Engineering ›
- Multimedia Digital Arts ›
- TV Broadcasting ›
- Yearbook ›
- Photography ›

2 MUSIC & PERFORMANCE

Music • Stage • Expression

- Band ›
- Chorus ›
- Mariachi ›
- Orchestra ›
- Theatre ›

3 DISCOVER & GROW

Innovation • Art • Movement

- STEM ›
- Art I & II ›
- Physical Education ›

There's more to discover.
Choose your own adventure.

EXPLORE THE FULL KMS COURSE SHOWCASE ↗

KMS STUDENT LIFE

Get Involved at KMS!

So many ways to be a Scorpion.

CLUBS

- Dungeons & Dragons
- Chess
- Fashion
- Garden
- Fitness
- STEM
- ...and many more!

SPORTS

- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Wrestling
- Cross Country
- Flag Football
- ...and more!

Your passion. Your team. Your school.

Explore. Challenge Yourself. Make Memories.

KMS ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Getting Into the GATE / Prep Program

REQUIRED INFORMATION FOR FORM

1. Gifted Identification
Documentation (if coming from out of district)

2. State & District Assessments
- AASA Scores (Math & ELA)
- NWEA or iReady Scores (Math & ELA)

3. Teacher Recommendations
From Math, ELA, Science, and Social Studies

4. Current Math Placement
Title of current class (e.g. Math 5, Math 6, Math 5/6)

Google Form

PLACEMENT GUIDANCE & CONSIDERATIONS

OPTION 1

Gifted Identification Criteria
- **97%+** in Verbal scores, *OR*
- **97%** in Nonverbal / Quantitative paired with **85%+** in Verbal

OPTION 2

Standard High Achievement
- Scores **Highly Proficient** on ELA and/or Math state assessments
- Scores in highest achievement category on district Reading/ELA assessments
- Earns **"A"s or "B"s** in core content areas
- Classes: GATE ELA, Social Studies and Sciences

OPTION 3

Comprehensive Profile & Class Engagement
- Scores **Proficient / Highly Proficient** on ELA/Math state assessments & district Reading
- Earns **"A"s** in core content areas
- **Placement in compacted math course, or completion of Kyrene summer course**
- Teacher recommendation: Consistently contributes to class discussions, supports viewpoints with evidence, self-assesses, reflects, uses feedback effectively, and connects ideas across documents.
- Completes online interest form and commits to the expectations of a gate student



Welcome to the KMS family!

Go Scorpions!