

La Canada Unified School District



GATE

Gifted and Talented Education

What is GATE?

- *It provides challenging curriculum and instruction to gifted and talented students in California capable of achieving significantly beyond the level of their peers.*
- *LCUSD operates a school-based, coordinated program at its three elementary sites and its 7-12 campus. All students may qualify in various ways throughout their school years.*

How Do Students Qualify?

One way is with OLSAT

- All third grade students whose parents grant permission are tested in the spring using the Otis-Lennon School Abilities Test. (OLSAT).
- The OLSAT is also administered to all new students who enter the district in grades 4-6.
- Previously tested students may be retested after two years.

What is the OLSAT?



- OLSAT (Otis –Lennon Abilities Test) contains about 70 questions in a multiple choice format
- It assesses students’ reasoning abilities, not achievement or retention of facts

OLSAT CONTENT

■ Verbal Comprehension

(The ability to perceive relational aspects of words, understand subtle differences...)

*EX: antonyms,
sentence
arrangement*

■ Verbal Reasoning

(The ability to apply inferences to new situations, evaluate conditions in order to determine necessary versus optional....)

*EX: arithmetic
reasoning, logical
selection*

■ Figural Reasoning

(This assesses the ability to use geometric figures to infer relationships, perceive progressions, and predict next steps...)

EX: figural analogies,
pattern matrices,
figural series

■ Quantitative Reasoning

(This assesses the ability to use numbers in order to infer relationships, deduce computational rules, and predict outcomes)

EX: number series,
numeric inferences

OLSAT Results

- Raw scores break into....
VERBAL – comprehension & reasoning
NON-VERBAL – figural and quantitative
- Shows number correct and possible
- Shows generalized rank



....Age-based Scores

- Relates child's abilities to norm group of the same age in 'Total', 'Verbal', and 'Non-verbal' categories
- Assesses based on student age (month and year of birth)



What Qualifies?

In LCUSD, a student qualifies if he or she is at the **98 percentile** in total verbal and non-verbal categories.

NOTE: In the State of California, no more than 10% of a student body may qualify for GATE. For this reason, the requirements for GATE vary from district to district. Therefore, a student who qualified in a district where students are not as high-achieving must be re-evaluated to participate in GATE in La Canada.

Is There Another Way to Qualify?

Yes. A student may qualify if he or she...

- Scores 450 or above on both ELA and MATH in the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR)



- Scores a 5 or 6 on the Spring District Writing Sample
- Scores 95 pct. or above on the Spring District Math Assessment

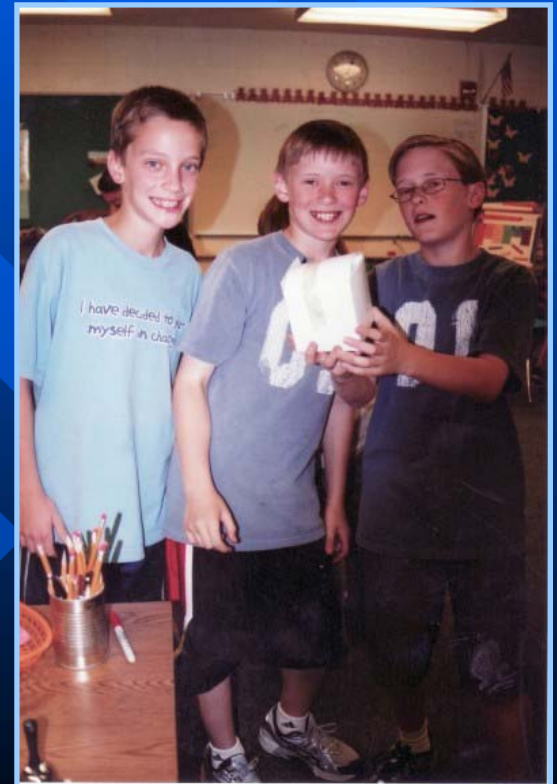
How Is School Different for a GATE Student?

- In some ways, it is not different. That's because the foundation of California's GATE program is differentiated instruction.
- In LCUSD all teachers have been extensively trained in differentiation. Strategies such as cluster grouping, part-time grouping, and flexible grouping are all integral to the regular classroom and offer GATE and other students the opportunity to learn based on multiple intelligences.



Then What Changes?

- Weekly Pull-out Program
- Spring Artists-In-Residence Program
- GATE After-School Program



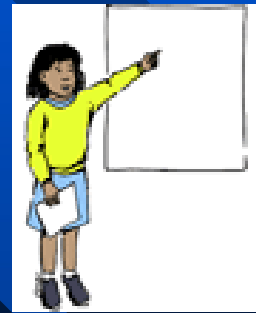
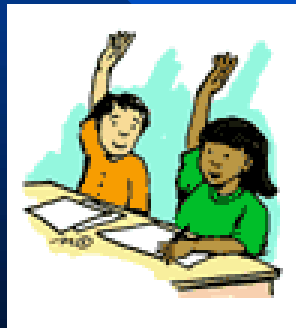
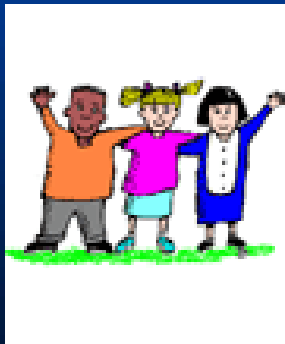
Weekly Pull-Out Program

- For 45 minutes each week from the end of October until the end of April, the GATE District Instructor, Julie Roberts. Mrs. Roberts is a La Canada resident and LCUSD parent with years of experience in the San Marino School District.
- The pull-out program is scheduled during non-academic times of the school day.



What Makes These Classes Unique?

- GATE students are given opportunities to enlarge their intellectual and academic horizons, stimulate curiosity, and build on the fundamentals of citizenship and community.



Examples?



- Fourth graders have sessions in mysteries, terrariums, and more
- Fifth graders have sessions in bubbleology, eggsperiments, and more
- Sixth graders have sessions in creating a city, creating castles --- and more!



Artists-in-Residence

In May, local creative artists in the areas of song, work, and graphic art bring four weeks of instruction during the regular pull-out times.



Advantages?

- Student surveys tell us our GATE young people appreciate creative professionals on their very own school site.
- Products, including a CD of student-generated songs, are not unusual.



GATE After-School Program

Undoubtedly the most known LCUSD program for GATE students is the GATE After-School Program

- This begins in February and runs into May.
- The average offerings run five weeks.



What Is Offered?

- On average, 13 different classes are available.
- A sampling includes classes in Korean, the Bill of Rights, Sign Language, Marine Biology, and Word Play (taught by L.A. Times' writers Bill Plaschke and Chris Erskine).



Who May Participate?

- All fifth and sixth grade students who fill out forms indicating their interest in that particular topic
- All fourth grade GATE students



What Happens after 6th Grade?

- On the 7-12 campus, counselors assess the needs of GATE students and monitor their progress with relation to math and language arts and social development.
- As GATE students continue to high school, counselors guide them to take a balance of honors and Advanced Placement classes appropriate for that individual.

What Propels Our Program?



As a strong proponent of differentiation instruction, LCUSD strives to infuse enrichment, extension of experience, rigor, higher-order thinking skills, excitement and opportunity for acceleration into the intricate fabric of the entire curriculum.

No Two Ways about It – Our GATE Is GREAT!

