

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GIFTED CHILD

Like all children, gifted students need care, understanding, companionship, and recognition. Many dislike routine and repetitive tasks, and often can meet grade standards of achievement with little effort. Intellectually gifted students may possess some or all of the following characteristics.

These students may:

- Learn easily and rapidly.
- Have an unusually advanced vocabulary for age or grade level.
- Possess a large storehouse of information about a variety of topics.
- Display a keen sense of humor.
- Show skill in abstract thinking.
- Try to understand complicated material by separating it into its respective parts.
- Be alert and keenly observant.
- Have rapid insight into cause and effect.
- Generate a large number of ideas or solutions to problems or questions.
- Show a high degree of originality, have creative and inventive talent.
- Be logical, often generalize or apply understanding to new situations.
- Define problems, formulate hypotheses, test ideas, and support conclusions.
- Demonstrate the ability to follow through on work of interest.



www.cagifted.org

HOAGIES' Gifted and Talented
www.hoagiesgifted.org



www.nagc.org



www.SENGGifted.org

Questions

Please visit our website @ www.hbcasd.us for our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document and other parent resources. These can be found under the Parents tab under Educational Programs. Our GATE Office can be reached at (714) 964-8888 ext. 2036.

HUNTINGTON BEACH CITY
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G.A.T.E.

Gifted and Talented Education



“Gifted children do not fall into a single pattern, but into an infinite variety of patterns”.
Terman and Oden

PROGRAM GOALS

Huntington Beach City School District has provided a program in Gifted and Talented Education for identified students since 1971. Participating students in grades 2-8 are involved in a curriculum which is designed to meet their unique needs.

Program goals include:

- Differentiated opportunities for learning commensurate with the gifted and talented individual's particular abilities and talents.
- Alternative learning environments in which gifted and talented individuals can acquire skill and understanding at advanced ideological and creative levels commensurate with their potential.
- Elements that help the gifted and talented develop sensitivity and responsibility to others.
- Elements that help to develop a commitment in gifted and talented individuals to constructive ethical standards.
- Elements that assist the gifted and talented in developing self-generating problem solving abilities to expand their awareness of choices in order to make satisfying contributions to the environment.
- Elements that help gifted and talented pupils develop realistic, healthy self-concepts.



PROGRAM DESIGN

In accordance with the Board's philosophy to develop the special abilities of each student, the Huntington Beach City School District provides GATE instruction in the following ways:

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAM

Students in grades two through five are offered the option of a "cluster" program in their neighborhood school, or the "centered" program at Peterson Elementary School. Parents may choose the cluster or the centered program. Placement in the centered program is based on space availability.

The centered program offers uniquely appropriate units of study beyond the regular curriculum. Students are grouped by grade level and receive differentiated instruction in all curricular areas.

In the cluster program, students attend their neighborhood school and are grouped by grade level within a specific class with a cluster of GATE students. Teachers provide differentiated instruction and use the universal access portions of the core curriculum for advanced learners.

Students enrolled in the GATE program are expected to complete projects and reports that reflect higher level thinking skills.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

Identified students in grades six, seven, and eight may be placed in cluster classes for GATE/Honors English Language Arts and Social Studies core and/or accelerated mathematics classes at both Dwyer and Sowers middle schools based on multiple measures qualifying criteria. Advanced skills are learned through curriculum units in research, science fiction, literature appreciation, speech and debate, study of comparative cultures, and the Renaissance. Leadership abilities, critical thinking processes, and sensitivity to the needs of others are emphasized throughout the program.

CONTINUATION IN THE PROGRAM

Continuation in the GATE program is based on student achievement in class work, maintenance of standardized test scores, and achievement of GATE student outcome expectations.

Occasionally, a pupil will not evidence adequate adjustment or academic progress in a program for gifted and talented pupils. In such an instance, the school site Student Study Team (SST) and/or GATE District Placement Committee, upon re-evaluation, may return the pupil to a regular class placement. Prior to such a decision, the SST and/or GATE Placement Committee will consult with the pupil's parents.

Strategies to Differentiate Instruction for GATE Students

- **Questioning techniques** that motivate students to simultaneously use several thinking and reasoning skills.
- **Tiered assignments** that challenge students with assignments that match their readiness levels.
- **Flexible skills grouping** that groups students according to their current needs in a specific topic or skill, rather than by a preconceived notion of their abilities.
- **Learning/interest centers** that provide students with more opportunities to hone their skills and pursue individual interests.
- **Curriculum compacting** that adjusts curriculum to a student's existing knowledge and ability to grasp new content.
- **Independent projects** that engage students in pursuing their interests at a pace, depth, and level appropriate to their abilities.
- **Interest groups** that give students more choice over their learning.

GATE Parent Organization

Parents are highly involved in supporting our GATE classrooms and program. Currently, we are in the process of forming a GATE Parent Organization. If you are interested in becoming involved in the development of such a group, please contact Debbie Bartlett in the GATE office at (714) 964-8888 ext. 2036.