

Overview



The mission of the Manhattan Beach Unified School District (MBUSD) Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program is to provide gifted and talented students differentiated instruction that is commensurate with their abilities. MBUSD has established programs for gifted and talented students to work together under the guidance of trained teachers in an atmosphere that is intellectually and academically rigorous, fosters creativity, and provides emotional support.

MBUSD provides many opportunities to further students' interests and needs, including differentiated instruction in math and language arts, visual and performing arts, math acceleration, leadership, and community service opportunities.

Students are also encouraged to participate in academic competitions, athletics, and a variety of after school enrichment opportunities including science, the arts, and robotics.

The District GATE Specialist works with an advisory group of community members, parents of GATE students, and school staff to review and recommend program policies and procedures to the Executive Director, Educational Services. This GATE Advisory Committee evaluates the GATE program annually by surveying students, teachers, administrators, and parents. Meetings are held monthly during the school year and are open to the community.

Purpose

The purpose of the GATE program in the Manhattan Unified School District is to provide appropriate learning opportunities for students identified in the intellectual, creative, and high achievement categories and to help them develop into autonomous, lifelong learners. The GATE program is designed:

- To provide activities which are differentiated in nature and require higher-level, logical, and creative thinking.
- To provide time for students to pursue projects and activities at a more sophisticated level.
- To empower students to use technology and advanced research tools to enhance their learning.
- To give students opportunities to work with their intellectual peers for a portion of their school experience.
- To develop independent study habits and social skills that will enable students to work productively alone or with others.

Communication

Information about the GATE program, including the MBUSD GATE Plan, can be found on the District's web site: <http://www.mbusd.org>. Click on "GATE News." Parents will also receive updates about GATE activities and events via email. For additional information, contact the MBUSD GATE Specialist, Alyse McDonald, at 310-318-7345, Extension 5727, or amcdonald@mbusd.org.

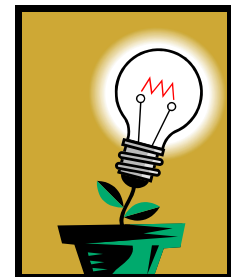


**Manhattan Beach
Unified School District
325 South Peck Avenue
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**Manhattan Beach
Unified School District**

GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION (GATE)



**Gifted and Talented Education
GATE Specialist**

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Gifted and Talented Education

GATE Program Design

Kindergarten through Third Grade

Teachers meet students' needs by providing advanced learning opportunities on a regular basis through implementation of differentiation strategies: acceleration, pacing, depth, complexity, and novelty of curricular tasks.

Fourth and Fifth Grade

Students are grouped in GATE clusters in their regular classrooms (homerooms). Teachers strive to make their classrooms places where gifted children feel accepted, are encouraged to learn to their fullest potential, and work collaboratively with others.

Currently, we offer a 16-day pullout program for GATE students in 4th and 5th grades allowing them to work on projects with their intellectual peers for a portion of their school experience. By the 2008-2009 school year, all GATE students will be assigned to a classroom with a GATE certified teacher, replacing the need for a pullout program.

Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grade

Manhattan Beach Middle School GATE students are clustered in certain subjects. Students are offered an opportunity to accelerate their learning in math, instrumental and vocal music, drama, campus leadership, and writing workshops. Exceptionally advanced learners in math and foreign language are offered the opportunity take classes at Mira Costa High School.



In June, we offer Space Week, a school-wide program dedicated to the interdisciplinary study of space science. During this week, GATE students are clustered, receiving differentiated curriculum and instruction.

GATE students at each grade level participate in an educational overnight experience that fosters their social and emotional development as gifted learners. Recently students have visited the USS Midway and the Aquarium of the Pacific.

Ninth through Twelfth Grade

Mira Costa High School students have access to advanced content in every subject field. The high school offers numerous honors and advanced placement courses and extensive enrichment through a wide variety of elective classes such as Model United Nations, student government, and performing, visual, and media arts. Students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular clubs and sports. Highly capable students may attend local colleges or universities to continue their studies in a particular subject area. Students can receive credit for online classes with prior approval.

Student Assessment and Identification

MBUSD uses the following categories in identifying gifted and talented students:

- Intellectual Ability;
- Creative Ability; and
- High Achievement.



Parents of all third grade students are given the opportunity to have their children screened for the gifted program using a test of cognitive abilities. All students new to the District are offered the opportunity for GATE testing. Once identified, a student remains identified as a gifted student in the District. Participation in the GATE program is optional. The MBUSD GATE Advisory Committee reviews the screening process and assessment criteria regularly.

Students who do not initially qualify for the GATE program may be retested for admission twice in a three-year period on scheduled dates. Students may be referred by parents or MBUSD personnel for retesting.

Please note: Private testing results will not be used to qualify students for the GATE program.

Service Options and Placement

The GATE Specialist and Student Study Teams serve as the GATE Identification Committee to qualify students for placement. Data collected on each pupil are evaluated and recommendations are made regarding placement.

Parents, teachers, and administrators are then notified of a student's eligibility for program placement. All test scores are mailed to the parent. Appeals may be made through the Student Study Team process. Records are kept for all students who have been referred for testing, regardless of their qualification status. These data are reviewed when reassessing students who have been referred for the GATE program more than once.

In order for qualified students to participate in the GATE program, their parents must give written consent. Once identified, a student remains identified as a gifted student in the District, though services to individuals may vary from year to year. The MBUSD GATE Advisory Committee reviews the screening process and assessment criteria annually and revises it if necessary.

Before any student is considered for removal from the GATE program, a Student Study Team meeting is conducted by staff with the GATE coordinator, parents, and the gifted student present. The interventions developed in the Student Study Team meeting are implemented and assessed for their effectiveness on an ongoing basis. If the student still has not progressed satisfactorily by the follow-up SST meeting, the team may determine that withdrawal from the GATE program is in the student's best interest.

Professional Development

MBUSD has a strong commitment to providing staff development for all teachers in the areas of curriculum and instruction for our Gifted and Talented students.

Teachers are encouraged to obtain their Gifted and Talented certification. GATE certification classes are offered to MBUSD teachers in District classrooms through a partnership with UC Irvine.

Additional ongoing opportunities for staff development include differentiation strategies, social and emotional needs of the gifted, and participation in GATE conferences.

Parent and Community Involvement

Parents are encouraged to participate in the GATE Advisory Committee meetings. These meetings are held monthly during the day at the MBUSD District office. Meeting dates and times are posted at <http://www.mbusd.org>.

Parents are welcomed into the GATE classrooms to observe and to help facilitate lessons. Volunteers throughout the community support GATE activities by donating their time and expertise in the GATE program.

Parents are encouraged to become members of the California Association for the Gifted (<http://www.cagifted.org>) and to attend conferences.