

Overview



The mission of Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) in the Manhattan Beach Unified School District (MBUSD) 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 during the school day, 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, creative problem solving, the arts, and robotics.

The Executive Director of Educational Services works with an advisory group of MBUSD staff and parents of GATE students to review and recommend policies and procedures. GATE Advisory Committee meetings are held four times during the school year and are open to the community.



Purpose

The purpose of GATE services 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. GATE services are designed:

- To provide activities which are differentiated in nature and require higher-level, logical, and creative thinking.
- To encourage 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 students' independent study habits and social skills to enable them to work productively alone or with others.

Communication

Information about GATE services, including the MBUSD GATE Plan, can be found on the District's website: <http://www.mbusd.org>. Parents will receive periodic updates about upcoming activities and events via email. For additional information, contact Carolyn Seaton, Executive Director of Educational Services, at cseaton@mbusd.org or via phone at (310) 318-7345, extension 5989.

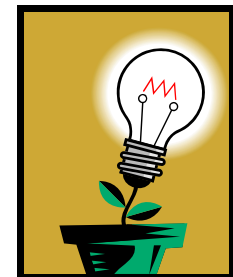


Manhattan Beach
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Manhattan Beach, CA 90266



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Unified School District

GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION (GATE)



Gifted and Talented Education
Carolyn Seaton, Executive Director,
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325 South Peck Avenue
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Gifted and Talented Education

GATE Services

MBUSD 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.

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

Fourth and fifth grade GATE identified students are grouped in GATE clusters in their regular classrooms with teachers who have completed or are in the process of completing 90 clock hours of instruction in gifted and talented pedagogy. The classes required for MBUSD GATE certification include "Differentiation of Instruction," "Critical Thinking," "Learning Styles," "How the Brain Learns," and "Social/Emotional Needs of the Gifted." Cluster grouping GATE students in classrooms facilitates teachers' differentiation of instruction and grouping of students to work on projects with their intellectual peers for a portion of their school experience.

Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grade

Manhattan Beach Middle School GATE students are placed in science classes with a teacher who has earned or is in the process of earning his/her GATE certificate as outlined in the section above. Students

are also offered opportunities 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 to take classes at Mira Costa.

MBMS GATE students at each grade level are invited to participate in an educational overnight experience that fosters their social and emotional development as gifted learners. Recently MBMS GATE students have visited the Ocean Institute, Fulcrum Learning's Camp Hess Kramer, and the USS Midway.



Ninth through Twelfth Grade

Mira Costa High School students have access to advanced content in every subject area. 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.

Enrichment Options for GATE Students

In addition to the primary services outlined by grade level, MBUSD also partners with the Odyssey of the Mind (OM) creative problem solving program. Most MBUSD elementary schools and MBMS have OM teams that are coached by parents. In OM, students learn to work as part of a team to solve a long term creative problem and numerous spontaneous problems. MBUSD sponsors OM coaches' training sessions each year. For more information on how to get involved in this program, contact Shelley Benke at sbenke@mbusd.org. The Manhattan Beach Athletic Foundation (MBAF) offers fee-based after school enrichment classes at all elementary school sites. Gifted students find many of these classes to be motivating and fun. Occasionally MBAF offers after school enrichment classes that are targeted to GATE identified students in fourth or fifth grade. Parents of GATE students are sent information via email to notify them of these GATE-specific enrichment opportunities.

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 gifted services using a test of cognitive abilities. Parents of fourth through eighth grade students who are new to the District are offered the opportunity to have their child undergo GATE testing. Once identified, a student remains identified as a gifted student in the District. The MBUSD GATE Advisory Committee reviews the screening process and assessment criteria.

Students who do not qualify for the GATE program initially may be retested for admission twice in a three-year period on scheduled dates. Parents or MBUSD staff

may refer students for retesting. *Please note:* Private testing results will not be used to qualify students for the GATE program. GATE identified students who move to MBUSD from other school districts do not qualify for GATE automatically. Prior OLSAT testing results may be used if the test was administered within the last two years. MBUSD's identification criteria will be applied. If no recent OLSAT results exist, new students will need to undergo testing in MBUSD.

Notification of Identification Status

Parents, teachers, and administrators are notified of a student's eligibility for GATE services. The cognitive abilities test score is mailed to the parents of each student for their records. Appeals may be made through the Student Study Team process at each school site. 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 GATE identification more than once.

Professional Development

MBUSD has a strong commitment to providing staff development for all teachers in gifted and talented pedagogy. Teachers are encouraged to obtain their Gifted and Talented certification which consists of successful completion of five university classes in GATE methodology. GATE certification classes are offered to MBUSD teachers at a location in the District through a long-standing partnership with UC Irvine.

Additional ongoing opportunities for staff development include collaboration meetings for GATE cluster teachers, Advanced Placement workshops for AP teachers, and participation in local and state GATE conferences.

Parent and Community Involvement

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

Volunteers throughout the community support GATE activities by donating their time and expertise to GATE cluster classrooms and after school enrichment opportunities. In addition, many parents of GATE students coach Odyssey of the Mind teams and chaperone MBMS GATE overnight experiences.

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