

WELCOME TO THE 5th
GRADE GATE
PARENT MEETING
March 8, 2017

Your Orientation to
Twin Peaks Middle School's
GATE Services



Agenda Items

- What is GATE?
- Who are the Gifted?
- District Goals and Services
- TPMS GATE Services
- GATE and the CA State Standards
- Homogeneous vs Heterogeneous Groupings

What is GATE?

- **Gifted and Talented Education**
- **Giftedness:** an above average aptitude (as measured by IQ tests) in creative and intellectual abilities
- **Talent:** an above average performance in an area of human activity; such as music, mathematics, or literature
Cagne (1985)
- PUSD Identifies students based on intellectual prowess, and not talent in areas like the fine and performing arts.

Who are the Gifted?

General characteristics of gifted students may consist of:

- a motivation with a strong desire to learn.
- an advanced interest in many topics.
- a strong sense of problem solving.
- a sense of inquiry to ask questions, experiment, etc.
- imagination and creativity.
- a heightened awareness of their world

Who are the Gifted?

General characteristics of gifted students may consist of:

- different social and emotional needs.
- organizational concerns.
- a real need to get along.
- a sense of perfectionism.
- heightened sensitivity.
- an introverted personality.

District Goals for Gifted Learners

- Provide **challenging curriculum** appropriate to **unique needs** and **abilities of gifted students**.
- **Promote academic excellence** by advancing learning experience to maximize individual student potential.
- **Promote responsibility and self-confidence** through learning experiences that promote self- identity, leadership and sensitivity to others.
- Cultivate **independent thinking** and **problem solving**.
- Provide learning experiences that address **the social and emotional needs unique to highly able students**.
- Provide opportunities for **leadership, peer interaction, healthy competitiveness**, and the development of the ability to think clearly and independently.

District GATE Services

- **Grades 3-5:** GATE identified students are placed, as clusters of 5-7 students, within otherwise heterogeneous classrooms.
- **Grades 6-8:** GATE identified students are placed into heterogeneous classes, as clusters of 8-12 students, with the possible option of a homogeneous grouping in Language Arts and Social Science (if numbers permit).
- **Grades 9-12:** Gifted students are encouraged to participate in honors and/or advanced placement courses in their areas of interest/expertise.

GATE Services at TPMS

- There is no separate GATE curriculum. All students must meet or exceed California State Standards for all subjects.
- GATE students are not pulled-out for “special” assignments.
- All GATE students (and all non-GATE students) receive ongoing differentiated instruction.
- Site coordinators provide information to teachers to bring awareness of GATE students’ needs to recognize at risk behaviors in this group.

GATE Services at TPMS

Differentiation is about changing the way students experience content, skills, and assessment. Depending on the class and teacher, students will have many different experiences. **All students** are taught in a manner that develops critical thinking skills.

- **CONTENT**— *What* is taught and learned
 - Quality, not quantity = more depth and complexity
 - Standards as a foundation then enriching and differentiating discussions/activities
- **PROCESS**— *How* the content is taught and learned
 - Utilizing higher level thinking skills- Depth of Knowledge
 - Focus on the details of the big picture and connection to real world and other disciplines
 - Differentiation in processing time
- **PRODUCT**— *What* the student does to show evidence of what is learned
 - Output of learning is demonstrated with a variety of assessment tools
 - Demonstration of higher level thinking through assignments, tests, projects, activities.

Depth of Knowledge (DOK) Levels

Level 1

Level 2

Level 3

Level 4

<p>Recall elements and details of story structure, such as sequence of events, character, plot and setting.</p> <p>Conduct basic mathematical calculations.</p> <p>Label locations on a map.</p> <p>Represent in words or diagrams a scientific concept or relationship.</p> <p>Perform routine procedures like measuring length or using punctuation marks correctly.</p> <p>Describe the features of a place or people.</p>	<p>Identify and summarize the major events in a narrative.</p> <p>Use context cues to identify the meaning of unfamiliar words.</p> <p>Solve routine multiple-step problems.</p> <p>Describe the cause/effect of a particular event.</p> <p>Identify patterns in events or behavior.</p> <p>Formulate a routine problem given data and conditions.</p> <p>Organize, represent and interpret data.</p>	<p>Support ideas with details and examples.</p> <p>Use voice appropriate to the purpose and audience.</p> <p>Identify research questions and design investigations for a scientific problem.</p> <p>Develop a scientific model for a complex situation.</p> <p>Determine the author's purpose and describe how it affects the interpretation of a reading selection.</p> <p>Apply a concept in other contexts.</p>	<p>Conduct a project that requires specifying a problem, designing and conducting an experiment, analyzing its data, and reporting results/solutions.</p> <p>Apply mathematical model to illuminate a problem or situation.</p> <p>Analyze and synthesize information from multiple sources.</p> <p>Describe and illustrate how common themes are found across texts from different cultures.</p> <p>Design a mathematical model to inform and solve a practical or abstract situation.</p>
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GATE Services at TPMS

Two Kinds of Instruction:

- **Vertical:** Moves students beyond the grade level standards and curricula. This is most commonly seen with questions high achieving students are asked on the MAP assessment. Compass Learning is a content strategy that will provide vertical enrichment.
- **Horizontal:** Moves students “into” the grade level curriculum and standards through the use of depth, complexity and novelty.

GATE Meets CA State Standards

- Can lead to higher level thinking rather than lower level test-prep answers.
- Align with and validate gifted education best practices: concept-based learning, integration of disciplines and inquiry-based options.
- Require depth of learning best reflected through
 - performance tasks and projects,
 - product differentiation,
 - creative and critical thinking activities
 - development of research skills.

Heterogeneous vs Homogeneous

**HOW
DO YOU
DECIDE???**

Heterogeneous Grouping

GATE cluster classes are a great place for students who want or need:

- flexible grouping.
- organizational support.
- academic challenge as well as support in some academic areas.
- a challenge without extra stress and competition.
- a push to achieve his or her potential.
- a leadership role in the classroom.
- to be at the top of the class.
- less pressure in school because of extra-curricular activities.

Homogeneous Grouping

A Homogeneous grouping is a great place for students who want or need:

- learning to go to greater depths more frequently.
- the possibility of less “wait time” because the class “GETS IT!” quicker.
- a class where most are interested in learning and exploring.
- to possess good, strong study skills.
- to possess a desire to learn beyond what is expected.
- the drive to challenge themselves and to achieve and do well.
- to be in a “competitive” class where all students are on the “same page”.

Placement Considerations

Topics to consider:

- Confidence Level
- Extracurricular Activities
- Peer Relationships
- Motivation and Desire
- Acceptability

Comparing Homogeneous and Cluster GATE in Middle School

High School GATE students who were enrolled in homogeneous GATE classes for at least two years during grades 6-8:

- are not more likely than GATE cluster students to enroll in and succeed in AP coursework
- are not more likely than GATE cluster students to be Advanced
- are slightly more likely than GATE cluster students to have a 3.5 GPA or higher

Homogeneous Class Criteria

- Will be determined by a lottery if the preference is over 35.
- The class must have at least 30 students.
- If there is no Homogeneous GATE class, GATE students will be placed in a heterogeneous class with a GATE cluster of students.
- If a placement letter is not received, the student will be automatically placed in a GATE cluster class.
- The GATE cluster classes will contain 8-12 GATE students.
- New placement letters are sent out in the Spring for the following year.
- Preference letters will be sent out April 3rd and due back to the counseling office (Donna Myers) by April 17th.

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!



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