

GATE PROGRAM



Gifted and Talented Education — AE Wright Middle School

Las Virgenes Unified School District

4029 Las Virgenes Rd, Calabasas, CA

LVUSD Mission

The Mission of the Las Virgenes Unified School District is to ensure that all programs are dedicated toward enhancing student achievement and that each school is a humanistic organization, valuing students emotionally and academically, providing the highest quality education possible in a personalized environment. We aspire to enable each student to realize maximum potential as a responsible citizen who will enhance the community and society.

AE Wright Mission

We at AE Wright are dedicated to the goal of academic excellence as well as the personal and social development of our students. Academic integrity is fostered in a climate that represents the unique needs of the adolescent. This includes curriculum and teaching techniques. Having a positive self-image, respecting the rights of others, communicating effectively, thinking-critically, being able to meet challenges and accepting responsibility are essential to the personal and social development of a well-rounded individual.

District GATE Goal

To identify gifted students and provide high quality differentiated opportunities for learning that meet students' unique social, emotional and academic needs and prepare them to be positive contributing members of society.

Middle School GATE Program Philosophy

The philosophy of the middle school GATE program is to provide a learning environment that focuses on the use of acceleration, depth, complexity and novelty to enhance student learning. By cohorting like-minded peers, intrinsic motivation and a positive self-image develop in a safe environment. Students are encouraged to work outside of their comfort zone and take academic risks that create intellectual leadership, courage, resilience, and humility.

For more information, visit the [AE Wright Middle School website](#).



Curriculum and instruction overview

The GATE Program uses the following to meet the needs of gifted students:

- Bloom's Taxonomy
- Higher-order thinking skills
- Icons of depth and complexity
- Independent research
- Complex problem-based student-centered assignments
- Projects that encourage students to take risks, and go out of the box
- Socratic seminars
- Universal Concepts: power, change, order, conflict, patterns, systems, relationships
- Scholarly Pursuits

What makes the GATE program different?

A team of innovative teachers provide an interdisciplinary program utilizing strategies of depth, complexity, acceleration, novelty and clustering to promote higher-level thinking in all core content areas.

Depth and Complexity

Icons of Depth and Complexity are prompts designed to help students go beyond surface level understanding. These essential thinking tools help students delve deeper into a concept (depth) and comprehend that concept with greater complexity. To truly understand something, one must be able to analyze details, apply the language of the discipline and recognize patterns, parallels and big ideas.

Acceleration

Because gifted students grasp concepts quickly, instruction is accelerated to allow more time for critical thinking.

Novelty

In-depth understanding requires establishment of interpersonal, collaborative, and collegial group skills to promote problem solving and creative thinking.

Clustering

Clustering gifted students provides opportunities for intellectual and social development with peers who have similar interests, ideas, and curiosities.



How is the program structured?

Gifted students in grades 6-8 are offered an academically challenging curriculum designed to meet their needs. GATE educators teach core content classes as well as integrate leadership, along with social and cooperative learning skills into an interdisciplinary curriculum. Students work in GATE cohorts for their core academics (English Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies) and receive daily physical education classes and a variety of electives offered at AE Wright Middle School.

As this chart demonstrates, the instructional program shifts:

Grade	Courses through GATE Department	Courses through Subject-Specific Departments
6 th , 7 th and 8 th	English Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies	Math*, PE and elective

** Students do not remain in their GATE class clusters for math. They are placed into math courses based on several measures of academic performance.*

Why GATE?

Does your child:

- Express a desire for more challenging activities, ideas or conversation?
- Pick up on concepts easily?
- Have a superior sense of humor?
- Wonder and ponder?
- Think abstractly?
- Demonstrate heightened awareness of global issues?
- Think quickly and see relationships?
- Have high morals and empathy?
- Display optimism or idealism?

Identification process

Students must take an IQ test administered by a district psychologist and reach a minimum threshold score to be invited to enroll in GATE. Students who have been accepted into the program are invited to a GATE Showcase where current GATE students and their parents will answer questions and share their experiences. Guests will meet the GATE staff and learn more about the program. To sign up for the test, parents can review the [GATE Self-Assessment](#) and then fill out the [GATE Online Application Form](#). *Outside assessments will not be accepted.*



General GATE Timeline:

Summer

- Request IQ Assessment

Fall/Winter

- Informational Nights
- Request IQ Assessment
- IQ Test Administered
- Receive notification of qualification for the program

Spring

- GATE Showcase
- Submit program commitment form

Frequently Asked Questions:

What does GATE testing consist of?

GATE testing is a one-on-one IQ test with our school psychologist. We cannot disclose any more information on the test to ensure that the test is not compromised.

How is GATE and honors testing different?

GATE testing is a one-on-one IQ test with our school psychologist that tests the student's abilities in many different areas, whereas, honors testing is a pencil and paper test focusing on either English Language Arts or Social Studies.

Is GATE offered at all the middle schools? How about honors?

The GATE program is only available at AE Wright Middle School. However, honors programming is offered at all three middle schools.

How long does the GATE test take?

It is approximately 25-30 minutes long.

How many students are in the GATE program? How many classes do you have?

There are 50-70 students and 1-2 cohorts per grade level.

If my child qualified but we miss the GATE showcase, how do I receive the same information?

Please contact the AE Wright school office to schedule a tour or speak with the principal. The phone number is (818) 880-4614.

FAQ continued

We are from out of district and would like our child tested. What is the process?

We can only test out-of-district students after our permits department receives all the necessary paperwork to confirm that your child will be enrolling into our district. To find out more information on how to start the permits process, please contact our permits department at (818) 880-4000 x258.

If my child already tested for a gifted and talented program from another school, will that test suffice?

We require that all students test here at our district

If my child tested and did not qualify, can they re-test?

We only test a student once per year. If they do not qualify, they can sign up to re-test the next year.

Which grades can test for GATE?

GATE testing is for students that are in 5th, 6th and 7th grade.

When and how do we find out our child's test results?

The test results will be mailed out to the address you provide on the electronic "GATE Testing Request Form" after all testing is completed at all school sites. This will be sometime in April.

If my child tests and does not qualify, and I do not agree with the decision, what do I do?

You can request an appeal by emailing Yael Rosen at yrosen@lvusd.org. You can state your case in the email, and you are welcome to attach supporting documents. Once the appeals committee makes a decision, we will email you the decision letter.

Does my child receive special high school placement for being part of the GATE program?

Our GATE students matriculate to a variety of programs once they attend high school, but there is no GATE program at that level. With gifted students, we recommend programs with advanced rigor such as Advanced Placement, Honors, etc., but class and program choices vary per student.

My 5th grader qualified for GATE. What are my options for next year?

Your child may choose to join the gifted program at AE Wright or attend their home school. Their coursework levels will be determined by placement exams at the school site.

FAQ continued

My child qualified for GATE and decided not to join the program but attends AE Wright. What are my options?

Your child will be placed into academic courses based on placement exams. If you are interested in Honors, your child will need to take the Honors exams on the specified dates.

My child qualified for GATE and decided not to join the program and currently attends Lindero Canyon Middle School or AC Stelle but is now interested in joining GATE. What are my options?

Your child may enter the GATE program at the natural breaks in the school year (semester or end of year), and you will need to contact the district permit office for clearance.

My child did not take the GATE test in 5th grade and attends AE Wright and is interested in the program. What are my options?

Contact the district office to schedule a GATE assessment with a district psychologist. If your child qualifies, they may enter the program at a natural break in the school year (semester or end of year).

My child did not take the GATE test in 5th grade and attends Lindero Canyon Middle School or AC Stelle and is interested in the program. What are my options?

Contact the district office to schedule a GATE assessment with a district psychologist. If your child qualifies, they may enter the program at a natural break in the school year (semester or end of year). Additionally, you will need to contact the district permit office for clearance to switch school sites.

After my child is done with 8th grade, what does it mean for their entrance into high school?

All 8th graders receive teacher recommendations for high school placements at the school they will attend based on their home address.

What if my child joins the program and it is not the right fit?

After meeting with teachers and a consensus with parents and staff, your child may exit the program at a natural break (semester or end of year). Academic placement will be based upon your teacher recommendation and academic performance.