

## **The Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Program at Lakeside**

### **GATE PROGRAM MISSION**

To provide opportunities for students to display their multiple-intelligence giftedness through differentiated learning activities.

To broaden identification and participation in the GATE program by using a multiple intelligence framework that meets state mandates.

To help students and staff better understand and identify student abilities and interests in the multiple intelligences.

To gather information about the interests and abilities of all students, using the framework of multiple intelligences.

To help students demonstrate their understanding and knowledge through activities and products that display their abilities and interests in the multiple intelligences.

To provide students with extra-curricular opportunities that offer higher level and creative thinking educational objectives (such as GATE courses through the Los Gatos Community Education and Recreation Department).

Provide everyday curriculum that emphasizes social skill development and student understanding of each other's interests, abilities, giftedness, and tendencies.

### **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE GATE PROGRAM**

#### **How is a student identified as “gifted?”**

Students in grades 3 – 5 who score 98% or above in the overall Mathematics, Reading, or Language sections of the standardized tests (given annually in the spring) are identified as “gifted” in their specific area of accomplishment. Newly identified students are usually considered provisional until further assessment confirms the standing.

Teachers and/or parents may request a GATE Multiple-Intelligence Nomination Form from the office to nominate students for identification in one or more of the multiple intelligence areas: Verbal-Linguistic; Logical-Mathematical; Visual-Spatial; Bodily- Kinesthetic; Intrapersonal; Interpersonal; and/or Musical.

Once a student has been nominated, the school staff uses information-gathering and assessment tools in order to determine a student’s giftedness. Parent permission is required for this process.

#### **How is a child’s giftedness addressed in school?**

When a child first becomes identified as “gifted,” The GATE Coordinator meets with parents and the GATE student to discuss the assessment and generate an interest profile for the GATE student. The GATE Coordinator then meets with each classroom teacher (grades 3 – 6) to share the information gathered about the identified students in her classroom. The child’s teacher then develops an action plan to differentiate teaching and learning that supports higher-level thinking and problem solving activities for each student. The action plan is shared with the child and his or her parents during a conference.

**What opportunities does an identified student have outside of the school setting?**

Students who are identified are invited to enroll in the community GATE courses offered by the Los Gatos Community Education and Recreation Department. These classes are fee-based. At this time, the classes are all held on the campuses of the LGUSD elementary schools.

**Does a child need to be identified more than once?**

A child who is identified as “gifted” in a specific area retains the identification throughout his or her public school career. Thus, it is important not to label the child indiscriminately. Serious emotional injury can occur when a child who may be developmentally early in an area such as mathematics (and not truly “gifted”) is identified improperly and then later held accountable by his or her teachers and parents to always perform in the top 2%.

**What is the definition of differentiation?**

In the context of education, we define differentiation as: A teacher’s reacting responsively to a learner’s needs, guided by general principals such as respectful tasks, flexible grouping, and ongoing assessment and adjustment.

**For more information, please contact the school principal, Bob Chrisman, (408) 354-2372 – School office.**