



Gifted and Talented Elementary Program

The Oak Harbor School District's *GATE* Program is designed to meet the unique needs of academically gifted and talented students.

SELF-CONTAINED CLASSROOMS: Students with exceptionally strong intellectual abilities who demonstrate the potential for performing significantly beyond the standard curriculum will qualify for the self-contained classroom. Broad View Elementary School houses these two classrooms. Qualifying students are bused to Broad View from their neighborhood school and attend on a full time basis.

CLUSTER CLASSROOMS: Each of the five elementary schools have cluster classrooms at grades 2-5. Qualifying students are placed in small groups or clusters in mixed ability classrooms. This clustering provides opportunities for students to work with other highly capable students.

Teachers in each tier are prepared to address the unique learning needs of highly capable students.

The *GATE* Program is diverse and ever changing. Students' interests and special talents help with programming considerations. Community resources and mentors play a valuable role, as do parents, who often serve as small group facilitators for math and reading enrichment.

PROGRAM GOALS

- ❖ Provide opportunities for students to work with other highly capable students.
- ❖ Provide for cognitive development at an appropriate pace and depth.
- ❖ Support the use of complex thinking processes.
- ❖ Foster intellectual inquiry.
- ❖ Teach processes leading to independent inquiries.
- ❖ Teach methodologies leading to creative production.
- ❖ Help broaden students' interests and introduce them to special topics.
- ❖ Provide differentiated and enriched curriculum within the regular classroom.

IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

Step 1: Initial Nomination. Students registered in the Oak Harbor School District may be nominated by a teacher, a parent or principal. Nomination forms are available from the school secretary. Nominations are accepted during the month of January.

Step 2: Learning and Creative Characteristics Forms. The classroom teacher and parent complete checklists of learning and creative characteristics. The information from these checklists is used to help identify those behaviors most often associated with highly capable students.

Step 3: Otis-Lennon School Abilities Test (OLSAT 8). During February and March, the Program Coordinator administers the Otis-Lennon School Abilities Test, a test of verbal and non-verbal reasoning skills. The result of this test is used as the first step in the identification process. Students must score in the 90th percentile or above to continue the process.

Step 4: Standardized Achievement Test. During March and April, qualifying students take the Metropolitan Achievement Test (MAT), a test of basic skills. Typically, a student who is highly capable scores in the 95th percentile or above in math and reading skills, well above the expected range for a child of his or her age.

Step 5: Team Review. A team comprised of the GATE Program Coordinator, classroom teacher, principal and school psychologist meets to review the data. Test data from students who have been tested in previous districts or who have participated in other highly capable programs will be reviewed at this time as well.

Step 6: Parent Notification. Parents receive a letter sent by the GATE Program Coordinator once the team makes its recommendations based on district criteria. These letters are sent out in May.

Step 7: Cluster Class Enrollment: Participation in the Cluster Classroom program will be arranged between the GATE Program Coordinator, the neighborhood school and the parent.

Step 8: Broad View Enrollment. If the student has been recommended for the Self-contained Classroom program, the choice to attend Broad View Elementary School is made by the student and parent. Class placement at Broad View is limited by space availability and class size. In order to insure placement at Broad View, parents must fill out a Program Request Form as well as an Intra-district Transfer Request Form within five school days of the parent information night. The Parent Information night is held in May. Students will be placed in the self-contained GATE classroom based on the date and time the request forms are received.

Transfer students who are placed in the self-contained GATE class at Broad View will be provided with transportation between their neighborhood school and Broad View. Siblings of students in the self-contained Gate classroom may attend Broad View if there is space available. Parents must fill out an intra-district transfer for each student.

Once a student has qualified for the elementary program, no additional testing is necessary in grades 1-5.

Students in grades three, four and five who are new to the district and who have participated in Highly Capable Programs in previous districts may be nominated during enrollment week in August. Information will be available in all elementary buildings during August registration as to the dates of August testing.

Students who live outside of the Oak Harbor School District attendance area will be charged a \$100.00 examination fee. The fee will be waived for students who qualify for the program and then choose to participate.

Program Exit

Every effort on the part of the staff is made to ensure success in the GATE program. However, on a rare occasion, a student wishes to exit. Additionally, there is the rare circumstance in which a student's behavior warrants an exit. These decisions are not made lightly, nor are they made without considerable student and parent consultation. In such cases, documentation explaining the reason for the program exit will be placed in the students' cumulative file.

Program Re-Entry

Students leaving the GATE program for any reason may re-enter without going through the identification process again.

Examples of Past and Current Program Activities

Extended thematic immersion studies have included:

- The practice of philosophy with an emphasis on Socratic questioning
 - Creativity: what it is; how it manifests itself through math, science and the arts; famous creative contributors; how we can understand their contributions; why their work endures; how creativity can be developed and nurtured
 - Night of the Notables: studies of eminent people
 - Future Fair: researching the past to predict future trends
 - Invention Convention: designing an invention that solves a problem
 - Young Authors Conference: learning from real authors and book illustrators
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