

## Characteristics of Giftedness

*Compared to other children your child's age, how many of these descriptors fit your child?*

Good problem solving/reasoning ability

Rapid learning ability

Extensive vocabulary

Excellent memory

Long attention span

Personal sensitivity

Perfectionism

Compassion for others

Intensity

Moral sensitivity

Unusual curiosity

Perseverance when interested

High degree of energy

Preference for older companions

Wide range of interests

Great sense of humor

Early or avid reading ability

Concerned with justice, fairness

At times, judgment seems mature for age

Keen powers of observation

Vivid imagination

High degree of creativity

Tends to question authority

Shows ability with numbers

Good at jigsaw puzzles

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**Gifted and  
Talented  
Education  
G.A.T.E.**



*"It is not enough to have a good mind, the main thing is to use it well."*

- Descartes

## Defining Gifted

Missouri defines gifted children as “those children who exhibit precocious development of mental capacity and learning potential as determined by competent professional evaluation to the extent that continued educational growth and stimulation could best be served by an academic environment beyond that offered through a standard grade level curriculum.”

## Gifted Program Rationale

The program recognizes that students possess unique talents across a range of multiple intelligences. Some students require a differentiated curriculum and more challenging enrichment opportunities to realize their full potential. This program integrates critical and creative thinking activities, independent research, and creative problem solving activities throughout its curriculum while providing affective education through development of intelligent behaviors and leadership qualities. The academic and affective needs of students are best served by the challenge and stimulation of working with their peers in an enriched environment that recognizes the diversity of the student population.

## Program Model

The GATE program follows a site-based model that is customized to the needs of the GATE population at individual schools.

At the elementary school level (K-5) GATE students are assigned to classrooms by cluster, allowing teachers the opportunity for instruction based upon the ability and needs of the particular cluster of children. Students who qualify for the GATE program meet by grade level for a minimum of 150 minutes per week for direction instruction on a pullout basis.

Middle School students have one GATE class period on alternating days, while at University City High School, the GATE teacher is available for consultation during seminar, along with an independent research elective being offered.

## Program Goals

The School District of University City is committed to educational excellence for all students. We will educate and graduate students who have mastered a comprehensive body of knowledge, have developed critical thinking skills, value creativity, respect diversity and make responsible life choices.

As a result of offering differentiated curriculum and personalized support, gifted students will have the opportunity to achieve district goals at the level commensurate with their talent. They will also be challenged to apply their knowledge and skills in complex and advanced ways so that they can continue to develop academically. If provided with the challenge and support that is needed, these students will become highly productive citizens who contribute in significant ways to the well being of the broader community.

Through the GATE program, students will:

- demonstrate and develop creative thinking through the participation in activities that require, fluency, flexibility, originality, and elaboration.
- Demonstrate strong problem solving skills through the development of critical thinking, decision making and reasoning.
- demonstrate creative and independent learning through the design and representation of independent research.
- demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills on a variety of topics through the use of different media.
- cultivate effective interpersonal, intrapersonal, and leadership skills.
- develop intrapersonal skills through self-evaluation, effective time management, and identification and development of individual multiple intelligences.

## Identification of Students

The School District of University City strives to identify students from a wide variety of experiences, cultures, ethnicities and backgrounds utilizing a thorough annual screening and evaluation process. This process helps to ensure that all qualifying students have the opportunity to consider participating in the GATE program. These evaluation tools go beyond traditional IQ measures to include talents beyond academics

## Screening and Identification Procedures for GATE

Kindergarten students will be screened first semester, all other students will be screened second semester.

## Initial Screening

All students in grade K-12 will go through the Initial Screening process. During this process, the GATE teacher will be collecting data. Parents of students who qualify will receive a letter stating that their child has met the qualifications for Advanced Screening.

## Advanced Screening

The Advanced Screening involves various test scores, teacher evaluations, and observations by the classroom and GATE teachers. All this data will be placed on a matrix.

Parents will receive a letter of notification regarding their child's results on the Advanced Screening.

## Final Evaluation

Students will be given the Torrance Test of Creative Thinking (TTCT) and the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT2). These scores, along with a parent evaluation and additional data, will be placed on the Final Evaluation matrix.

Scores on the Final Evaluation Matrix determine eligibility for either GATE or Enrichment service.

## PEGS

The Program for Exceptionally Gifted Students (PEGS) is offered off-site for a limited number of qualifying students in grades two (2) through twelve (12) who qualify as being exceptionally gifted.

Please see your building G.A.T.E. teacher for more information.