



Bellflower Unified School District

GATE Program

"For every gifted child who is not allowed to reach his or her potential, there is a lost opportunity. That child might have composed a concerto, found a cure for a hitherto terminal disease, or developed a formula for world peace. Wasting the potential of a gifted mind is reckless for a society in desperate need of creativity and inventiveness."
Carl Rogers

PROGRAM GOALS

The main goal of the Bellflower Unified School District GATE program is to offer unique and differentiated learning opportunities for gifted students. To accomplish this, the following goals are integrated at each school:

- Differentiated learning opportunities that challenge individual student abilities and talents.
- Opportunities to extend learning with depth and complexity throughout the curriculum.
- Opportunities to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills in all content areas.
- Students will learn responsible and ethical behavior, while developing leadership skills.
- Opportunities to develop self-generating, problem-solving abilities, in order to expand the student's awareness of choices.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GIFTED CHILD

Intellectually gifted students often possess some or all of the following characteristics:

- Learn easily and rapidly
- Have an unusually advanced vocabulary for age or grade level
- Display a keen sense of humor
- Show skill in abstract thinking
- Have rapid insight into cause and effect
- Show a high degree of originality
- Have a creative and inventive talent
- Demonstrate the ability to follow through on work of interest
- Define problems, formulate hypotheses, test ideas, and support conclusions
- Logically generalize or apply understanding to new situations

IDENTIFICATION

The Bellflower Unified School District initiates the identification process through multiple pathways. These include standardized test scores, teacher referral, intellectual evaluations, and parent requests. Although differentiated instruction occurs at each grade level, our formal GATE program begins in grade 3 and extends through grade 12.

ELEMENTARY PROGRAM:

Our elementary schools meet the GATE program goals by providing a learning environment which is carefully designed to incorporate differentiated learning activities by a teacher who is knowledgeable and trained in this curricular modality. Each site has a GATE facilitator who gives leadership to and coordinates their school's GATE program to meet the needs of the students.

SECONDARY PROGRAM:

Each of our secondary schools serve GATE students through accelerated, honors, or Advanced Placement classes. Additionally, students gifted in the visual and performing arts have opportunities to increase their skills in advanced classes. These advanced courses provide in-depth coverage of subject matter, critical analysis and higher level thinking skills, and foster student responsibility for self-learning and independent study. They are available in a variety of curricular areas. Descriptions of high school courses can be found in the curriculum handbook found on each high school's website.