

Department of Gifted and Talented Education Programs



“Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered you will never grow.”

- Ronald E. Osborn



Washoe County School District

Every Child, By Name And Face, To Graduation

*“As a GATE teacher, I am continually inspired by my scholars’ love for learning and am excited when I witness the meaningful moment when scholars connect with what they are learning and how it will impact their lives.” - **SWAS Teacher***

GATE Elementary School Models

The Department of Gifted and Talented Education Programs offers four models to guide the development of elementary school students toward independent thinking and self-directed learning. All gifted students receive enhanced and enriched content focusing on 21st Century skills, including critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication, and leadership. All four academic models include specifically designed social and emotional learning components to meet the unique needs of gifted students.

Advanced Academic Placement (AAP) Model

The AAP model provides both identified GT students and high-achieving students the opportunity to engage with rigorous curriculum in core content areas at their zoned schools. The curriculum is fast-paced and requires greater levels of complex thinking. The AAP model is appropriate for students who meet high academic standards, yet are ready for additional challenges.

Collaborative Model

The Collaborative model provides the opportunity for elementary GATE students to work with GT teachers in their own classrooms. GT teachers collaborate with classroom instructors to design and provide services that align with classroom curriculum at appropriate levels of rigor and relevance for gifted students.

Pull-Out Model

The Pull-Out model is designed for GT students in grades two through six. For two and a half hours each week, a GATE teacher pulls GT students from their classrooms in order to work with like-minded,



gifted peers. Curriculum in this model emphasizes the Project Based Learning (PBL) model, an approach in which students work in collaborative groups to develop, execute, and present real-world projects to authentic audiences.

School Within A School (SWAS) Model

The SWAS model meets the needs of highly and profoundly gifted students in grades three through six. Qualified students are invited to apply for admission. Admitted students are enrolled in self-contained, multi-grade classrooms that incorporate best practice, instructional strategies for highly and profoundly gifted students. The curriculum is both accelerated and enriched to provide authentic learning experiences. This combination of like-minded peers, instructional alignment with National Association of Gifted Children (NAGC) standards, and research-based curriculum is appropriate for these gifted students whose learning needs are beyond the reach of the regular education classroom.

“The GATE teachers are amazing! They understand our kids’ unique needs and interests and keep them engaged so they can cultivate their love for learning!” - Magnet Parent

GATE Middle School Models

The Department of Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Programs offers three models to guide the development of middle school students toward independent thinking and self-directed learning. All gifted students receive enhanced and enriched content focusing on 21st Century skills, including critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication, and leadership. All three academic models include specifically designed social and emotional learning components to meet the unique needs of gifted students.

Advanced Academic Placement (AAP) Model

The AAP model provides both identified GT students and high-achieving students the opportunity to engage with rigorous curriculum in core content areas at their zoned schools. The curriculum is fast-paced and requires greater levels of complex thinking. The AAP model is appropriate for students who meet high academic standards, yet are ready for additional challenges.

Collaborative Model

The Collaborative model provides the opportunity for elementary GATE students to work with GT teachers in their own classrooms. GT teachers collaborate with classroom instructors to design and provide services that align with classroom curriculum at appropriate levels of rigor and relevance for gifted students.

Magnet Model

The Magnet model meets the needs of gifted students in grades six through eight. Qualified students are invited to apply for admission. Admitted students may enter in sixth or seventh grade and will be enrolled in core classes with

gifted peers. The curriculum is both accelerated and enriched to provide authentic learning experiences. The Magnet model is appropriate for highly-motivated, self-regulated students with the desire to meet high academic standards and expectations in all four core content areas.



“If parents want to give their children a gift, the best thing they can do is to teach their children to love challenges, be intrigued by mistakes, enjoy effort, and keep on learning. That way, their children don’t have to be slaves of praise. They will have a lifelong way to build and repair their own confidence.”
Carol Dweck

“At the GATE Institute I am immersed in the GT way of life, and I can’t imagine being anywhere else!” - GATE Scholar



GATE High School Models

The Department of Gifted and Talented Education Programs offers three models to guide the development of high school students toward independent thinking and self-directed learning. All gifted students receive enhanced and enriched content focusing on 21st Century skills, including critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication, and leadership. All three academic models include specifically designed social and emotional learning components to meet the unique needs of gifted students, particularly during the critical transition between middle school and high school; and then again, as they prepare for college and career pathways.

The GATE Institute at Hug High School

The GATE Institute is a partnership between the GATE Program and Procter Hug High School. With GT-endorsed teachers, specially designed classes, accelerated course pathways, and flexible scheduling, identified GT students in ninth through twelfth grades can expect to take classes based on interests, strengths, and readiness. Qualified students are invited to apply for admission. This model is appropriate for gifted students

who are prepared for advanced coursework and acceleration, yet still desire a traditional and comprehensive high school experience. Students successfully completing this model are self-motivated learners who are college and career bound.

GATE Advisory Model

The GATE Advisory model provides support for gifted high school students at their zoned schools. Both the high school GATE program coordinator and the GATE school counselor work directly with site administrators, counselors, and teachers to provide advice regarding course selections, dual-enrollment, and college-career preparation. Collaboration is offered to ensure differentiated instructional strategies for gifted learners are available to general education classrooms..

GATE Internship

The GATE Internship provides eleventh and twelfth grade GT and high ability students with an opportunity to work closely with an expert in a career field of their choice. Having the opportunity to participate in the GATE Internship model provides experiences crucial for making informed choices when students apply to colleges, select majors, or ultimately choose their own career paths. A valuable, strong, and authentic internship program can enhance a student’s resume.

For more information regarding program qualifications, or for general questions, please contact us at...

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