


*Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.*

-- William Butler Yeats



**Other sources of information on**

**giftedness and gifted programs:**

- GATE Resource Library, District Office, 435 Sixth Street
  
- Web sites:
  - ⇒ [www.Hoagiesgifted.org](http://www.Hoagiesgifted.org) (Hoagie's Gifted Education Page)
  - ⇒ [www.cagifted.org](http://www.cagifted.org) (California Association for the Gifted)
  - ⇒ [www.nagc.org](http://www.nagc.org) (National Association for Gifted Children)
  - ⇒ [www.sengifted.org](http://www.sengifted.org) (Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted)
  - ⇒ [www.cde.ca.gov/sp/qt](http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/qt) (California Department of Education GATE web page)

**G A T E P R O G R A M**

DeAnn Tenhunfeld  
435 Sixth Street  
Woodland, CA 95695

Phone: 530-406-3252  
deann.tenhunfeld@wjusd.org

## What is differentiated instruction?

Differentiated instruction is a way of teaching that recognizes the differences in student interests, learning styles and academic readiness and provides ways for each student to move **forward** academically throughout the school year. Research indicates that effective instruction for gifted students must be designed to nurture their need for academic challenge, abstract thinking, and big ideas. Therefore, differentiation of the curriculum for gifted students focuses mainly on depth and complexity of content, advanced or accelerated pacing of content, and unique and original expressions of student learning. In a classroom designed to meet these needs, students will sometimes work with the whole class, sometimes individually, and sometimes with a small group. The groups are not always the same, but change according to the interests and needs of the students and the purpose of the lesson. In a differentiated classroom, advanced students spend time during their day working with other advanced students on challenging activities selected because of student interests and strengths.

If your child is identified for GATE, it is important to discuss his/her strengths, interests and needs with the classroom teacher at parent conferences or by appointment. Information from parents helps the teacher plan for appropriate instruction. It is the intent of the WJUSD GATE

program to provide advanced learners with appropriate educational challenges in settings that recognize, value, and promote their unique needs and continuing growth.

## How can I get involved in the GATE program?

Parents are an indispensable source of support for the GATE program. It is important that you act as an advocate for your child and provide feedback so that we can continually improve the program. Contact your school's Principal and ask what you can do to contribute to the success of the GATE students at your school and the Woodland Community.

*Many thanks to the WJUSD GATE parents, teachers, and administrators who contributed to the development and production of this brochure.*

Revised 2023



**Excellence for All**

**WOODLAND JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Gifted and Talented Education (GATE)

# Ceilings are for rooms, not students.

## What is the purpose of the GATE program?

The purpose of the GATE program is to provide challenging curriculum and instruction and a supportive educational environment for students who are capable of achieving at a level significantly beyond that of other students the same age.

## How are GATE students identified?



Giftedness may be found in any child, regardless of culture, language, disabilities or socio-economic back-

ground. The district currently uses the Raven's 2 Progressive Matrices online test. The Raven's 2 is a non-linguistic test of mental reasoning ability. It is a different type of assessment than the achievement tests they have taken, and does not require specific knowledge in any particular subject area. To ensure equal access to the program, every third grade student in the district is screened for GATE program eligibility. In addition, teachers and parents may refer a student for GATE evaluation. Younger students may be informally

identified and served through advanced instruction in the classroom.

## What are some typical characteristics of a gifted learner?

Characteristics of giftedness may include rapid learning ability, good problem solving ability, an extensive vocabulary, excellent memory, keen powers of observation, personal sensitivity, intensity, perfectionism, a strong sense of justice, a keen sense of humor, early or avid reading ability, a vivid imagination, unusual curiosity, a wide range of interests, and a preference for older companions. If your child has many of these characteristics and has not already been identified for GATE services, talk to his/her teacher about referring him/her for evaluation. Parents may also refer students.



## Is the GATE program the same in all the elementary schools? What about middle school or high school? What should I expect?

While the Common Core State Standards adopted by the state of California provide the basis for a rigorous core curriculum, WJUSD promotes differentiated instruction to meet the needs of all learners.

At the elementary level, students receive differentiated instruction in their

classrooms and are invited to attend Science Night, Geography Bee classes, Art Classes, and the Summer Enrichment Academy.

At the middle school level, students may take advanced classes and are also invited to participate in the district GATE offerings. In high school, opportunities for GATE students include advanced, honors and Advanced Placement (AP) classes; a variety of electives; and dual enrollment college courses. The district recommends that GATE-identified students apply for and enroll in at least one honors or Advanced Placement class in grades 11 and 12.



Outside the regular school day, individual schools may offer enrichment activities for GATE students. The enrichment offered by each school depends on student needs and interests, as well as on the school's resources such as parent involvement, grant funding, availability of instructors, etc.

Participation in the GATE program is voluntary; parents may withdraw their child from program participation at any time by sending a written request to the District GATE Coordinator.

## How can I find out more about the district's GATE program?

Ask your child's teacher about the specifics of your school's GATE program. If you need more information, ask the principal or your school's GATE Site Liaison.

### My school's Principal

Name:  
Phone:

### My school's GATE Site Liaison

Name:  
Phone:

### District GATE Coordinator

Name: DeAnn Tenhunfeld  
Phone: 530-406-3252

### District Web Site

[www.wjusd.org/Programs/More-Programs/GATE](http://www.wjusd.org/Programs/More-Programs/GATE)  
(GATE is under the Programs tab.)