



WSMA GATE FAQs

2020-21

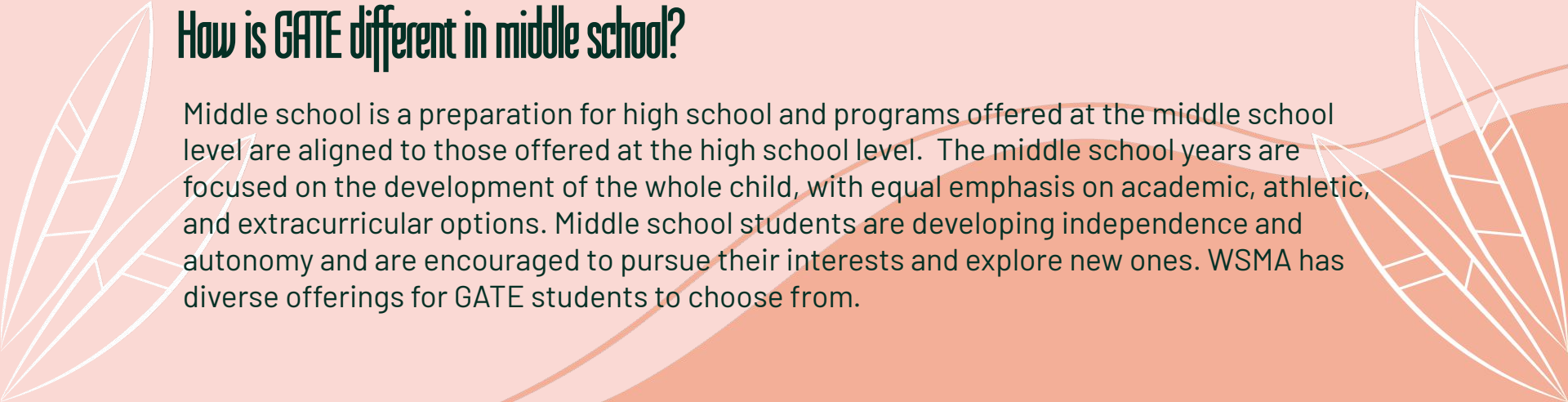


What is GATE in PUSD?

The Pasadena Unified School District offers a Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Program for eligible students in grades 3 - 12. The GATE program is designed to meet the unique needs of gifted and talented students, and to maximize their academic and social development. Classroom instruction begins with the grade level core curriculum and is differentiated based upon student need and ability ensuring positive motivation and the intellectual growth of gifted students. PUSD provides gifted and talented students with opportunities for learning commensurate with their particular abilities, talents, and interests.

How is GATE different in middle school?

Middle school is a preparation for high school and programs offered at the middle school level are aligned to those offered at the high school level. The middle school years are focused on the development of the whole child, with equal emphasis on academic, athletic, and extracurricular options. Middle school students are developing independence and autonomy and are encouraged to pursue their interests and explore new ones. WSMA has diverse offerings for GATE students to choose from.



What are some different programs offered at WSMA?



AVID

Advancement Via Individual Determination is a program designed to help students develop the skills needed to be successful in college & the workplace.

AVID Schoolwide:

- WICOR Strategies
- AVID Binders
- College Corners

AVID Elective:

- Weekly Tutorials
- College Field Trips
- Guest Speakers
- Leadership Opportunities

Band/Orchestra

Instrumental electives offered during 7th period (after school)

- DLIP, ELD, etc. have access to an additional elective period
- Gold Medal at the Knott's Berry Farm Music Festival
- Black History Day & Latino Heritage Parades
- WSMA Spring Concert

DLIP

WSMA dual language classrooms provide an environment that encourages bilingualism via the following:

- Readers and Writers Workshop
- Text-based learning
- Collaborative Group Projects
- Presentations (Formal & Informal)
- Consistent practice every day in oral and written form

What are some different programs offered at WSMA?



ELD

Academic Language Development elective

- Considered 2nd English class
- Emphasis on 4 domains:
 - Reading
 - Writing
 - Listening
 - Speaking
- Whole-class, small group, guided and independent learning activities

Glee

Musical Theater elective offered during 7th period (after school)

- DLIP, ELD, etc. have access to an additional elective period
- Performances at renowned venues such as the Walt Disney Concert Hall

Math Academy

- Radically accelerates the math curriculum
- Open to students who meet eligibility qualifications.
 - All PUSD 5th Graders will take entrance test
- Courses
 - 6th: Math Academy I
 - 7th: Math Academy II
 - 8th: AP Calculus BC



What STEAM Electives are offered at WSMA?

Robotics

Competitions:

- LEGO Mindstorm
- PUSD Robotics at the Rose Bowl

STEAM Exploratory Electives

- Scientist-in-Residence
- Design Lab
- Innovation Exposition

How are parents notified about school news?

Dr. Malone sends home weekly email and phone announcements on Sunday evenings. Please make sure your contact information is current and correct in Aeries Parent Portal so you don't miss these important updates.

How can parents access *Noticias de los Osos* (the weekly news videos)?

Noticias de los Osos can be viewed asynchronously on the WSMA ASB Canvas page or your child's Advisory Canvas page. A secure sign-in to Canvas is required to protect student privacy. Parents can watch episodes through their child's account. Parents with observer accounts (to monitor their child's classes) can also request to be added to the WSMA ASB Canvas page as a student so they don't miss all our good news!



How are parents notified about GATE enrichment opportunities?

- WSMA enrichment opportunities are communicated to parents/guardians via the principal's weekly announcement email/phone calls on Sunday evenings.
- Centralized GATE offerings, such as Innovation Exposition, Math Field Day, Junior Docents, and GATE Parent Enrichment Evenings are typically communicated to families via email by the PUSD GATE Office.
- For activities that require students to represent school sites, the information is also pushed out directly to students via the related content class teacher so students may volunteer and/or apply for the programs that interest them.
- All opportunities are shared schoolwide via our weekly school news broadcast, *Noticias de los Osos*, on Tuesdays in Advisory.



How are GATE students notified about enrichment opportunities available to them?

- Enrichment opportunities are communicated to students via our weekly school news broadcast, *Noticias de los Osos*, on Tuesdays in Advisory, WSMA ASB Canvas announcements, and school email.
- Opportunities that are content-specific are further communicated through the content teachers.
- At WSMA, all students are encouraged to explore enrichment opportunities that are commensurate with their abilities, talents, and interests.



What supports are in place to meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of GATE students?

- WSMA prides itself on a schoolwide approach of building supportive and accountable relationships with students. Schoolwide Advisory takes place Tuesday - Friday with a focus on social-emotional learning, community building, and goal-setting.
- GATE students are clustered with their peers in Advisory classes with special focus areas, including Leadership (ASB) and Music-themed Social-Emotional Learning (SEL).
- Students typically remain with the same Advisor during their entire time at WSMA in order to develop lasting, supportive relationships.

How are GATE students encouraged to seek out social, emotional, and academic supports?

- As part of our schoolwide focus on agency, we encourage all students to seek support via emailing teachers, talking to their Advisors, and attending teacher office hours.
- Our Multiple Tiered Systems of Support staff includes:
 - Advisory Teachers
 - RTI Coach
 - Counselor
 - CWAS Staff
 - STARS, DayOne



What kind of professional development do teachers receive around the needs of GATE students?

- PUSD GATE certified teachers participate in 30 hours of professional development and lesson design. GATE certification includes training in GATE standards, enrichment, differentiation, and the myriad social-emotional needs of GATE students. Teachers must recertify every three years.
- WSMA is also a Nationally STEM Certified campus. Using a competency-based, academic coach-led online learning platform, STEM educators produce a portfolio of work that demonstrates proficiency across 15 STEM teacher actions.
- Several WSMA teachers have one or both certifications.

Who can tell me more about GATE?

- National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC)
- California Association for the Gifted (CAG)
- Karen Anderson - District Arts & Enrichment Coordinator
 - anderson.karen@pusd.us
 - Twitter @maestraanderson
- Ella Farinas, WSMA Instructional Coach
 - farinas.ella@pusd.us

