



SEEING THE PROGRAM IN ACTION



VIBRANT MINDS



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**LEARNING
SHARING,
& CARING
TOGETHER**

**TK-6
CHARTER
SCHOOL**



VIBRANT MINDS CHARTER SCHOOL

YES, WE HAVE A GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION [GATE] PROGRAM

At Vibrant Minds Charter School, scholars are assessed to identify those who give evidence of high-performance capabilities in the intellectual and/or academic domains. With a stringent qualification criterion of functioning in the 98th percentile or above based on Raven's Standard Progressive Matrices and Test on Nonverbal Intelligence, Fourth Edition, some scholars are officially identified as GATE. Others experience merit participation in the GATE Program based upon other criteria, including those scholars who are highly motivated to achieve more.

It is important to note that GATE scholars are highly diverse. Giftedness exists in every demographic group and personality type. As a school, and in partnership with parents, we seek to discover scholars' potential as they reach for their personal best, whether they are or are not GATE identified.

GATE Program participants and other identified scholars require services and activities beyond what is ordinarily provided by the school in order to fully develop their interests and talents into strengths through personalized mentoring by teachers and specialists.

HERE'S HOW GATE WORKS

Each of our GATE scholars is assigned a personal mentor. The mentor helps the scholar connect with other specialists and resources that can support his/her interests and talents and transform them into strengths. This includes the development and implementation of Tier 1 and Tier 2 projects.

Tier 1 Project-Based Learning Opportunities

GATE scholars should select highly motivating projects. Areas of interest can be explored in many forms: performances, experiments, print, photos, or inventions. Once completed, scholars present their projects to the public. The categories that have been explored are in the areas of:

- Life Skills
- Photographic/Video Composition
- Science
- Technology/Engineering
- Visual and Performing Arts
- Written Creation

Tier 2 Service Opportunities

The benefits of Service-Based Learning have been well documented. Our goal is to develop well-rounded, selfless individuals who use their gifts to support their community. Opportunities for service include:

- Anti-Bullying Week
- Community outreach
- Earth Day
- Kindness Week
- Math Challenge
- Mentoring of younger scholars
- Campaign Meet and Greet Events
- Multicultural event
- School-wide Showcases

HERE'S WHY IT'S EFFECTIVE

It has been my observations that the happiest of people, the vibrant doers of the world, are almost always those who are using - who are putting into play, calling upon, depending upon - the greatest number of their talents and capabilities.

— John Glenn

Scholars develop greater self-confidence and self-esteem, and are able to create meaningful and motivating goals for themselves, when given a mentor who supports exploration of their strengths. Additionally, studies show that behaviors, attitudes, and relationships improve when a youth has a mentor.

Our GATE Program requires the scholars to set a goal, create a timeline, research supplies needed to produce their output, and challenge themselves to present their project in front of peers and the public. These presentations are designed to help them develop knowledge and skills, self-awareness, and public speaking. This model promotes self-reflection and self-discovery.

In addition to producing an output associated with their interests and talents, our GATE scholars complete the important second tier of our program. We believe our scholars' talents and gifts should manifest themselves in various forms of service that contribute to the community. Community focus is vital for the future success of any generation. Opportunities we provide have created a platform for the scholars to grow their awareness of how important it is to be involved in the areas of government, charity, and cultural understanding. We believe that by providing these experiences, a desire to serve others will become a part of who they are.

RESOURCES GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION

These links and references are a small sample of what has inspired Vibrant Minds Charter School's GATE program.

California Association for the Gifted
www.cagifted.org

National Association for Gifted Children
www.nagc.org

World Council for Gifted and Talented Children
www.world-gifted.org

Mentoring: An Educational Alternative
for Gifted Students
www.journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.4219/gct-2001-550?journalCode=gctc

A Review of Research on
Projected-Based Learning
www.documents.sd61.bc.ca/ANED/educationalResources/StudentSuccess/A_Review_of_Research_on_Project-Based_Learning.pdf

Effects of Service Learning on Young, Gifted Adolescents and Their Community
by Alice W. Terry (2003)

Service Learning: Fostering a Cycle of Caring in Our Gifted Youth
by Alice W. Terry and
Jann E. Bohnenberger (2003)