

Sonoma GATE Frequently Asked Questions

GATE FAQ	Answers
<p>I've heard that GATE just means "more work." Will my child have more homework?</p>	<p>GATE does not mean more work, but it does mean producing a higher quality of work. Your child may have more homework in a GATE class than they have experienced before, but that likely has to do with work being "too easy" before. We often hear statements that gifted students have no homework in regular classes because they "got it all done in class" or "it was so easy; it took me 5 minutes." GATE students will have an appropriate amount of work and homework for their age and their academic ability that is within the MCS guidelines.</p>
<p>I'm nervous about my child riding the bus. How do kids like riding the bus?</p>	<p>At the beginning of the year teachers and staff help students get to the correct busses every day. It has been our experience that once students develop a routine on the bus, they have no problems riding the bus and even enjoy the extra time with their friends.</p>
<p>My school currently provides opportunities for my gifted student. How will being in a GATE class be different?</p>	<p>Because our GATE classes are a more homogeneous group, teachers are able to move at a faster pace and adapt curriculum to meet advanced students' unique interests and needs. GATE classes are also able to enrich the academic curriculum with Enrichment classes, art, and other extra activities.</p>
<p>My child doesn't want to leave his/her friends? How do children transition at a new school?</p>	<p>Students in the GATE program develop strong bonds and new friendships that last beyond their school years. In third grade especially, we do a lot of team building activities that allow students to get to know one another and make friends. Many GATE students keep in touch with their neighborhood friends in after school and extracurricular activities, so they kind of get the best of two worlds. They are able to find their intellectual peers.</p>
<p>All children are gifted. Putting my child in a</p>	<p>All students have abilities and talents in</p>

<p>GATE program is elitist.</p>	<p>different areas. All parents should strive to find situations that help their children develop those abilities. It may be a traveling sports team, individual music lessons, or arts classes. For students who are academically and creatively gifted, a GATE class allows them to develop their skills in an environment with like peers. A young baseball player who shows promising skills may not get the training she needs in a city league. We wouldn't call it "elitist" when that parent puts her on a traveling team. Every child deserves to be in an environment where he or she is challenged and can strive to reach his or her potential.</p>
<p>I want my child in Honors classes in junior high and Advanced Placement, IB (International Baccalaureate) classes in high school. Do I have to place them in GATE classes in elementary to do that?</p>	<p>Being in GATE classes in elementary school is not a requirement to Honors and AP/IB placements in future years. That being said, our classes prepare students for the rigor and higher standards in Honors/AP classes. Our goal is for our students to leave elementary, not just on grade level, but ready to work and achieve at a higher level. Many past students and parents come back and thank us for preparing their children for the years to come.</p>