

Growing with GATE

We believe that every student is unique and has the right to optimal development. Our GATE Program is based upon methods of developing and utilizing this uniqueness. The goal of our GATE Program is to develop students' self-esteem, creative and logical thinking, research, and skills in independent studies as students implement their individual gifts and learning styles through appropriate challenges. The VCS GATE Program aligns with the national standards for GATE learning published by the National Association for Gifted Children.

GATE selection is based on standardized test scores in math and language arts, as well as current and previous teacher recommendations regarding class participation, achievement, and task completion. Renzulli's 3 traits of gifted behavior, high ability, task commitment, and creativity are also part of the evaluation process for inclusion in the GATE Program. Although students may enter the GATE Program at any level, the GATE curriculum is planned to sequentially develop students' skills as they mature from teacher directed challenges, to projects and presentations that arise from personal interests and curiosity. Each grade has a specific focus.

Grade3: Problem Solving and Discovery

Grade 4: Exploring and Challenging One's Self

Grade 5: Exploring, Understanding and Appreciating Diversity

GATE students at all levels meet after school once each week with the GATE teacher. Lessons and units are sequential, concluding each semester with a student presentation for parents and guests. Throughout the GATE program, students are asked to reflect on their learning, challenges, and applications of the lessons and activities shared in GATE. A weekly newsletter, the GATEway, is emailed to parents with information about the week's activities and ways to discuss and expand the concepts at home.