



MEDFORD LAKES SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Neeta and Nokomis Schools

# Gifted Programming Overview 2018-2019

The Medford Lakes School District recognizes that “giftedness” occurs in different areas of the school program and as such provides a variety of engaging and challenging programs for our gifted learners.

**Grades K-2 = A.C.E. “Academic Challenge & Enrichment”**

**Grades 3-8 = G.A.T.E. “Gifted and Talented Education”**

# A.C.E. Program for Grades K-2

## **Who teaches the A.C.E. Program at Nokomis?**

Instruction is planned and delivered by the classroom teacher.

## **What is the format?**

The classroom teacher delivers the lesson to the entire class.

## **How often does the instruction occur?**

A.C.E. instruction occurs one day per six day cycle.

## **What materials are used?**

The P.E.T.S. – “Primary Education Thinking Skills” are the materials used for the A.C.E. program.



Dudley  
the  
Detective

...Uses clues  
...to find one  
and only one  
right answer

Sybil  
the  
Scientist

...Studies  
the parts  
of things



Max  
the  
Magician

...Looks for  
patterns  
...To find  
one solution  
that works



Yolanda  
the  
Yarnspinner

.....Uses her  
imagination  
.....to weave  
wonderful  
stories



Isabel  
the  
Inventor

...Brainstorms  
...to find  
lots and lots  
of answers



Jordan  
the  
Judge

... Uses  
considerations  
...To find  
the best  
answer



<http://www.primaryeducationthinkingskills.com/videos.html>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K9mcHhE4A5E&list=PL53E22AABB530F0DA&index=7>

# The Selection Process for G.A.T.E.

(Grades 3-8)

- criteria for placement is based on multiple measures of student ability
- a point system using a variety of assessment tools determines placement – see slide #7 (*teachers do not recommend students to the gifted programs*)
- student must maintain an A/B average in all classes to remain in the program
- students that fall below the A/B average are placed on “academic probation” and have one trimester to bring their grade(s) back to A/B average
- students that are unable to bring their grade(s) back to A/B average will be removed from the program for the remainder of the school year and must re-qualify for placement the following year

# The Selection Process for G.A.T.E.

(Grades 3-8)

- all G.A.T.E. students are expected to re-qualify for placement each school year
- notification is made to parents of students that qualify via a letter mailed the week of September 17, 2018 (*letters will not be mailed to students that did not meet the criteria for placement in the gifted program*)
- if a student does not receive a letter and a parent feels that their child should be reconsidered, parents are asked to please contact Mrs. Ramage via email [cramage@medford-lakes.k12.nj.us](mailto:cramage@medford-lakes.k12.nj.us) to request an appeal to the “*District Gifted Committee*”. All requests for appeal must be received by 4:00pm on October 1, 2018. The “*Gifted Committee*” will meet on October 2, 2018 to review all parent requests for appeal and parents will be notified of the committee’s final decision on or before October 5, 2018.
- programming begins the week of October 8, 2018 and runs through early-June

# Evaluation tools\* used in the identification of G.A.T.E. students

- CogAt – “Cognitive Abilities Test”
- Spring MAP Math – “Measures of Academic Progress”
- Spring MAP Reading – “Measures of Academic Progress”
- Spring DRA – “Developmental Reading Assessment
- Final Grades
- End of Year Math Assessment
- End of Year Writing Assessment



# G.A.T.E. Program Grade 3

## **Who teaches the G.A.T.E. Program for Grade 3?**

Grade 3 – Mrs. Swindells

## **How often does the instruction occur?**

Students in Grade 3 G.A.T.E. meet one time each six day cycle

## **What is the topic for Grade 3 G.A.T.E.?**

*“Invention Convention”* - This program will explore the process of making a great idea into an invention. Students will work independently and in groups to stretch their mind and thinking. They will look at problems and issues from different angles or perspectives to come up with a solution. The culminating activity will be an invention showcased to the school and community during the annual *“Invention Convention”*.



# G.A.T.E. Program Grade 4

## **Who teaches the G.A.T.E. Program for Grade 4?**

Grade 4 – Mrs. Summerville

## **How often does the instruction occur?**

Students in Grade 4 G.A.T.E. meet one time each six day cycle

## **What is the topic for Grade 4 G.A.T.E.?**

*“Expedition through Spanish Culture”* - This program will lead students through the exploration of Spanish culture. Students will learn about the geography and background of Mexico. Students will set up and learn about the process of using a “passport”. Students will discuss how to get to Mexico and to travel to the different cities in Mexico. Throughout these activities and simulations the students will be developing an understanding of the different cultures.

# G.A.T.E. Program Grade 5

## Who teaches the G.A.T.E. Program for Grade 5?

Grade 5 – Mr. Heggan

## How often does the instruction occur?

Students in Grade 5 G.A.T.E. meet one time each six day cycle

## What is the topic for Grade 5 G.A.T.E.?

*“Rocketry”* - This program emphasize exploration of rocketry through hands-on involvement, prediction, data collection and interpretation, teamwork, and problem solving. It also demonstrates fundamental principles of rocket science and background information. The activities were selected and organized around the target concepts of altitude, velocity, and acceleration (*i.e., height, distance, and speed*) along with Isaac Newton’s Laws of Motion.

# G.A.T.E. Program Grade 6

**Who teaches the G.A.T.E. Program for grade 6?**

Grade 6 - Mr. McCall

**How often does the instruction occur?**

Students in Grade 6 G.A.T.E. meet one time each six day cycle

**What are the topics for Grade 6 G.A.T.E.?**

*“Crime Scene Academy” and “Mock Trial”* – These programs provide opportunities for students to engage in data collection and problem solving using a variety of strengths and leadership skills. Students will be challenged to weigh multiple potential answers to a problem in order to solve a case. The topic also includes opportunities to use academic and technical vocabulary in the context of hands-on problem solving.

# G.A.T.E. Program Grade 7

**Who teaches the G.A.T.E. Program for grade 7?**

Grade 7 - Mrs. Agin

**How often does the instruction occur?**

Students in Grade 7 G.A.T.E. meet one time each six day cycle

**What are the topics for Grade 7 G.A.T.E.?**

There are three units in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade G.A.T.E. program.

Unit #1 “*Genetics: The Fruit Fly*” - Students will develop an understanding of the fruit fly and apply the principals of “Mendelian Inheritances”

Unit #2 “*Trebuchet*” - Students will learn how force affects the motion of a projectile.

Unit #3 “*Bridge Design*” - Students develop an understanding of how scientists and engineers utilize physical science concepts when building a bridge.

# G.A.T.E. Program Grade 8

**Who teaches the G.A.T.E. Program for grade 8?**

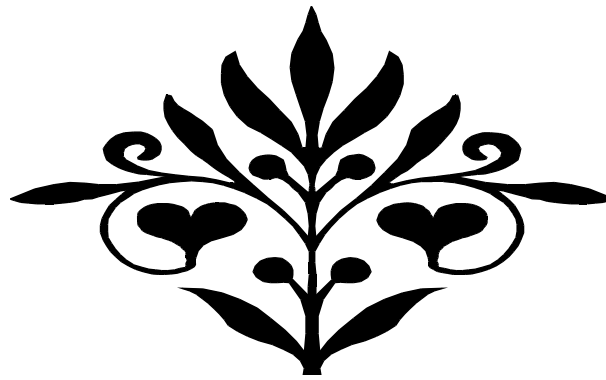
Grade 8 - Mr. Meakim

**How often does the instruction occur?**

Students in Grade 8 G.A.T.E. meet one time each six day cycle

**What is the topic for Grade 8 G.A.T.E.?**

*“High Altitude Balloons”* - In this program, students will develop an understanding of the Earth’s atmosphere. Students will be creating and testing model versions of weather balloons, rigging, parachutes, and payloads. Once groups have created successful models, the class will be divided into several tech teams. Students will create different groups in charge specific parts of the project. students will testing their ability to combine the two previous complex units and successfully launch a high altitude weather balloon.



For more information about gifted programming in  
the Medford Lakes School District

please contact

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or

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