



# Gifted/Talented Programs Parent Newsletter

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Los Angeles Unified School District  
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**LAUSD CORE BELIEFS:** 1. Start with students, 2. Families are our partners, 3. Success is in the classroom, 4. Diversity is our strength, 5. Effective teaching, leadership, and accountability are the keys to our success.

Dr. Debbie Dillard, District Coordinator  
Dr. Lucy Hunt, District Specialist  
Erin Yoshida-Ehrmann, District Specialist  
Catherine Estrada, District Specialist  
Wynne Wong-Cheng, Psychological Services Specialist  
Yolanda Muñoz, Secretary

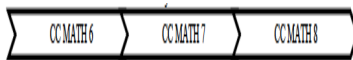
## Transitioning to the California Common Core State Standards: Mathematics Implications for GATE/SAS Middle School Students in LAUSD

Starting in the 2014-2015 school year, LAUSD middle and high schools will begin to transition all Secondary math courses to align with the California Common Core State Standards: Mathematics (CA CCSSM). The new CA CCSSM are considered to be more rigorous than previous math standards and include concepts and skills in earlier grade levels that were formerly included at higher grade levels.

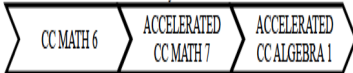


will take CC Math 7 in 7th grade and CC Math 8 in 8th grade. Students placed on the accelerated pathway will take Accelerated Math 7 in 7th grade and Accelerated CC Algebra 1 in 8th grade which essentially compacts three years of math content into two years.

Middle School Traditional Pathway:



Middle School Accelerated Pathway:



Note: Schools will offer the proper placement for advanced students who follow alternate pathways.

However, there has been concern from some principals, teachers and parents of GATE/SAS students about options for acceleration in order for students to take higher level math courses in high school. To address this issue, LAUSD has developed two pathways at the middle school level: traditional and accelerated. All incoming 6th grade students will be enrolled in CC Math 6 and take a placement test at the end of the school year. Based on the results of the placement test, students will be placed in one of the two pathways. Students placed on the traditional pathway

According to LAUSD policy, "In the 2014-2015 school year, students in grades 3-8 and grade 11 will be taking the SMARTER Balanced Assessments (SBAC) for mathematics. Students will take the assessment according to their grade level and not course enrollment." To view sample items from the SBAC assessments, go to <[www.smarterbalanced.org](http://www.smarterbalanced.org)>.

For more information about Common Core implementation in LAUSD, please visit <[ccss.lausd.net](http://ccss.lausd.net)> or <[math.lausd.net](http://math.lausd.net)> and/or contact your child's middle school.

## FAQs about GATE Identification in the Arts

- When is the next assessment date? **May 17, 2014 at Cal State LA**
- How can my child be referred for the assessment? **A parent, student, or teacher may request a referral from the school**
- When is the application due? **By April 11, 2014**
- Who can apply? **Students with talent in grade two and above attending LAUSD schools (no fee) or affiliated/independent charter schools within LAUSD boundaries (school must arrange fee-for-service)**
- What does the assessment consist of?
  - An audition in the Performing Arts: dance, drama or voice**
  - A demonstration in the Visual Arts including an evaluation of the portfolio brought by the candidate and the evaluation of two pieces of artwork prepared onsite (pencil sketch and mixed media)**
- What should the portfolio contain? **6-10 pieces of student's original artwork. All items must be marked with the child's name, grade and school**
- Is there anything that is not acceptable? **Cartoons, doodles, paintings by number, work over 3 years old, work larger than 18"X24," DVDs, Powerpoint presentations, copyrighted work**

Qualifying students receive an invitation that must be presented and receive priority placement in the Saturday Conservatory of Fine Arts. For additional information, call Gifted/Talented Programs at (213) 241-6500.



## Unlocking the GATE to the Common Core

The following is an excerpt from the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC), "Application of Common Core State Standards for Gifted and Talented Students."

"The common core language arts and mathematics state standards have been written to uphold and advance high standards for all students. But, one size does not fit all. For some students – those at the top end of the performance spectrum – fidelity to grade-level standards can actually limit learning.

Gifted and talented students learn more quickly and differently from their classmates. They come from every ethnic background and socioeconomic group and vary from their age peers and from other gifted students in the ways and rate at which they learn, and the domains in which they are gifted. These differences require modifications to curriculum and instruction, as well as to assessments, to ensure that these students are appropriately challenged. Too many advanced students languish in today's classrooms with little rigor and much repetition. With careful planning, the new standards offer the prospect of improving the classroom experience for high-ability students in significant ways; not only in how the new materials are developed and presented, but also the ways in which student knowledge is measured, leading to appropriate instructional decision-making.

In considering advanced students, grade-level standards will be inadequate in challenging them each day with new information. Gifted learners are well able to meet, and exceed, the core standards on a faster timetable than their age peers. Therefore, it is critical that curriculum is matched to student ability through a range of content acceleration strategies and that teachers are able to implement an array of differentiation strategies to supplement and extend the curriculum. These include a variety of flexible grouping strategies, creative and critical-thinking opportunities, and other approaches designed to add depth and complexity to the curriculum."

Read the complete statement at <[www.nagc.org](http://www.nagc.org)>



### Stay Connected to Gifted/Talented Programs!



www.lausd.net/gate  
www.facebook.com/LAUSDGATE  
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### SAVE THE DATE!

Annual GATE/SAS Parent Conference: 8:30 am-12:30 pm

Saturday, March 22 at Virgil MS

Free. No registration required.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Jaime Castellano

Join us for a wonderful day of learning about educating our gifted kids!