



San Diego Unified School District

LOMA PORTAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
3341 Browning Street, San Diego, CA 92106 (619) 223-1683

Mark Morici
Principal
(619) 223-1683
mmorici@sandi.net

Date: January 28th, 2020
To: Parents/Guardians of San Diego Unified School District Students
From: Mark Morici
Re: 2019-20 GATE Testing

This year your child will be assessed via the CogAt Screener to determine identification for the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Program. Please see reverse for more information about our GATE program. The CogAt screener will be administered by our School Psychologist, Vicky Schwartz, to one class each day (schedule below) in our STEAM Lab. The assessment takes about one hour to complete.

All 2nd grade students are assessed. Parents will need to “Opt Out” on page 3 of this letter (“GATE Information Form”) if you choose not to have your child tested. If we do not receive this from you by February 13th, your child WILL be tested.

The CogAt screener will be conducted at our school on the following dates during Math time (Mrs. Lundeen’s 2nd graders will be assessed with their normal 2nd grade Math class):

- March 9th - Breadmore
- March 16th - Marcus
- March 23rd – Naughton
- April 6th – Make Ups

Things to Remember:

- If your child wears corrective lenses, please make sure s/he has them during the testing period.
- After the testing has been completed, parents will be notified by the school site whether or not their child qualifies for the GATE program once the assessment results are finalized.
- All GATE program and placement questions or appeals can be directed to Mr. Morici.
- To ensure valid assessment, it is important that your child not be introduced to the actual test materials prior to the test administration. Please sign regarding the “Ethics in Testing Statement” on the “GATE Information Form” (page 3).

We request that you complete the “GATE Information Form” (page 3 of this letter) and **return it to your child’s teacher by Thursday February 13th**. Information supplied by the parent is very helpful in the evaluation of a student’s abilities.

****To answer questions and offer support to parents, there will be a GATE parent meeting on Tuesday February 18th @ 8:30am in the auditorium**. This meeting is open to parents of students in any grade level.



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GATE Information

GATE and Seminar Identification is based on a multi-criterion matrix, which includes:

- CogAt Screener Score - A student's comprehensive Standard Score (Age Equivalent) on the CogAt serves as the base number for the calculation.
- Achievement
 - 2 points are given to students who Exceed Grade Level standards on 10 out of 11 areas in both English Language Arts and Math on standards based report cards (SBRC) and 9 out of 10 areas for second graders.
 - 2 points for students who achieve Above Standard in all areas of English Language Arts and Math performance areas on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) assessment.
- Factors
 - 5 points are added for English Learners (ELPAC Summative score 1 and 2).
 - 5 points are added for students from low socioeconomic backgrounds (free and reduced lunch).
 - 2 points are added for students with IEPs.
 - 1 point is added for relocation (3 or more school moves in elementary or military)
 - 1 point is added if student receives points for two factors listed above (i.e. low socioeconomic backgrounds, English Learners, special education, relocation). –
 - 2 points added if student receives points for three or more factors listed above (i.e. low socioeconomic backgrounds English learners, special education, relocation).

*** Students with 121 or more points are recommended for GATE CLUSTER

*** Students with 135 or more points are recommended for GATE SEMINAR

Loma Portal Elementary School follows SDUSD's GATE Diversity Cluster Model (Model B) for students in grades 3 and 4. This model provides that at least 25% of the students in each class are GATE or Seminar identified, with the remaining openings filled with students reflecting the diversity of the school. We **do not** have a designated GATE/Seminar classroom on our campus. We are committed to serving all of our students and creating a learning environment in which ALL of our students' needs are met. In order to effectively challenge our GATE, Seminar, and high achieving students, **all of our 3rd and 4th grade teachers are GATE Certified** and receive specialized professional development to ensure that our students are working at their highest possible level. GATE strategies in use at our school include:

- Differentiated opportunities for learning based on each student's particular abilities and talents
- Provisions made for ensuring participation of students in the upper range of intellectual ability
- A stimulating and challenging environment that provides a differentiated curriculum focusing on depth, pacing, and complexity
- Pre-assessments to determine students' needs
- Integrated learning experiences through interdisciplinary units
- Group projects that encourage cooperation, leadership, and creativity
- Inquiry-based instruction

To learn more about the district GATE program, visit the SDUSD GATE website at:

<https://www.sandiegounified.org/gifted-and-talented-education-gate>.



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PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE SCHOOL BY THURS 2/13

GATE INFORMATION FORM

STUDENT'S NAME (Last/First)

DATE of BIRTH

SCHOOL / GRADE

OPT OUT: NO, DO NOT TEST MY CHILD

Please sign here

Signature of Parent or Guardian / Date

YES, TEST MY CHILD

ETHICS CLAUSE AND POSSIBLE FUTURE GATE PLACEMENT

~To my knowledge, my child has not been tested with the CogAt Screener in the past 6 months nor practiced with the test in any way.

Please sign here

Signature of Parent or Guardian / Date

• Does your child have an active Special Education IEP or 504 Plan? YES _____ NO _____

• Other information to assist us in assessing your child?

