

Brett Geithman, Ed.D.
Executive Director
Educational Services



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Manhattan Beach Unified School District

325 South Peck Avenue • Manhattan Beach • California 90266 • (310) 318-7345 • ext. 5989

April 24, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians of Third Grade Students,

The Manhattan Beach Unified School District's Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) services begin formally in fourth grade. The goal of these services is to provide a challenging curriculum to students capable of achieving significantly beyond the level of their peers. Gifted fourth and fifth grade students will be grouped into clusters during instructional time and will be taught by either a GATE certified teacher or a teacher who is in the process of attaining his/her GATE certificate. The GATE certified teachers have been trained in the use of GATE strategies such as critical and creative thinking techniques, acceleration, depth, complexity, and novelty to differentiate the curriculum for their gifted students. Please contact the principal of your child's school for specific details about GATE clustering at each site.

In the spring of third grade, all students will be assessed with the OLSAT. MBUSD uses the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) as a key component to qualify students for GATE services. The OLSAT assesses verbal and nonverbal abstract thinking and reasoning abilities. If you wish to have your child considered for GATE identification, he/she needs to take the OLSAT. The third grade classroom teachers will administer the test in the classroom on a date occurring during the window of May 15-June 2, 2017. Students who are not taking the OLSAT will be provided with alternative curriculum. The next opportunity for your child to be tested for GATE services will be in the spring of 2018.

If you prefer that your child not participate in the OLSAT test administration, please return the opt-out form to your child's third grade teacher no later than Friday, May 5, 2017.

As we all know, there are many ways to be gifted. I encourage all parents and children to be sensitive to the GATE identification process. Thank you for your support of the MBUSD GATE program.

Sincerely,

Brett Geithman, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services

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MANHATTAN BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION (GATE) PARENT/GUARDIAN OPT-OUT FORM THIRD GRADE GATE SCREENING

Parents/Guardians who elect not to have their children screened for the gifted program must opt-out of the screening. The test of cognitive ability used by the Manhattan Beach Unified School District is the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT).

Third Grade GATE Screening is administered in third grade classrooms between May 15 – June 2, 2017.

_____ I request that my child NOT participate in the OLSAT screening.

Student Name:

First: _____ **Middle Initial:** _____ **Last:** _____

School: _____ **Current Grade:** _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Phone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Signature): _____

Date: _____

Please complete and return this form to your child's third grade teacher no later than **FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2017.**