

JUST imagine

GATE HANDBOOK



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Gifted & Talented

Gate Parents and Students, Welcome to GATE!

The GATE staff looks forward to new and continuing partnership with each of you to ensure the best quality education your child deserves. As always, the new school year holds the promise of new discovery and learning, as well as the prospect of personal growth in all areas as we explore the "JUST IMAGINE".

This handbook should answer any questions you may have regarding policies and procedures for the Middletown School District Gifted program. Should you have any questions that are not addressed, please contact us.

Just imagine, the height of enrichment and challenges you and your child will engage in this school year.

GATE Staff

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Gifted & Talented



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I. In the education of the gifted individual, considerable emphasis should be placed upon developing higher level thinking skills using in-depth content as demonstrated by a variety of products and/or performances.

II. In the education of the gifted individual, considerable emphasis should be placed upon developing affective and social/behavioral skills using in-depth content as demonstrated by a variety of products and/or performances.

III. In the education of the gifted individual, considerable emphasis should be placed upon developing aesthetic skills using in-depth content as demonstrated by a variety of products and/or performances

MISSION:

It is the purpose of our program to assure that:

- students will learn the appropriate "Academic Content Standards,"
- students will realize the value of education and take control of their learning,
- appropriate tools will be administered to assess learning, and
- staff will reorganize resources to teach, re-teach, and extend learning.

VISION STATEMENTS:

Based upon our mission, our vision for GATE is to:

- demonstrate essential, high level qualities as educators,
- provide appropriate, child-centered learning opportunities which will meet each student's needs,
- seek and utilize a variety of resources to support a safe, comfortable, professional, collaborative environment, and
- provide meaningful staff development opportunities.



The three GATE programs include: *Communications, Creativity, and Math.*

- **Communications** -- This program is designed to extend both Language Arts experiences. Students conduct Independent Studies, write and publish stories and poetry, and learn the step-by-step process of creative problem solving.
- **Math** -- In this program, students study Mathematics. The activities are hands-on and focus on problem solving and analytical thinking.
- **Creativity** – The program provides gifted students opportunities for creative expression through activities and units that help develop creative thinking and problem solving skills.

SELECTION FOR GATE:

The following are used for gifted/talented identification, in accordance with Ohio House Bill 282: a nomination, an initial group ability or achievement test, and a checklist. For students who nearly reach the state-determined cut-off scores, another test may be given.

SCHEDULING:

Students attend one day a week from 8:00 - 2:45. On days when the home schools are closed for conferences, there will not be a GATE program. On system wide in-service or records days, there will be no GATE. If the schools are closed early because of bad weather, furnace outages, etc., the busses will take students directly home. GATE follows the Middletown School District's schedule. GATE days may be modified due to field trips and district-wide testing.

DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR:

Students may be dropped from the program at the request of the parents:

1. No consideration for drops will be made during the first six class sessions, except for extreme emergencies.
2. The parent may request a drop by notifying the respective GATE teacher or the GATE coordinator in writing.
3. The GATE teacher will work with the home school principal to arrange a conference at the home school with the parent, GATE teacher, home school principal, and the GATE supervisor at the request of any party. The following people may also be involved: the home school teacher and/or the student.
4. The decision to drop or not to drop will be made at the conference by the parent. Prior to withdrawing the student from the program, the teacher will provide modifications to ensure student success prior. If the decision is to drop the student from GATE, parent will complete the withdrawal form and the student will be withdrawn from the program

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Students have responsibilities to their home school. Bring the following to each GATE day of class: paper, pencils and other assigned materials; a nutritious snack - no candy or "junk food;" a positive attitude and a willingness to work and learn.

Medication: The rules for taking medication are the same for GATE as they are for all Middletown schools. Appropriate forms must be completed. Please call the school nurse or office if there are any questions.

ABSENCE:

Students who are absent from class miss valuable classroom experiences. Regular attendance at GATE is essential. Students should not, however, attend GATE when ill. If a student is absent from GATE, please notify both **Central Academy at 420-3285** and the **student's home school**. Send a note upon returning to school.

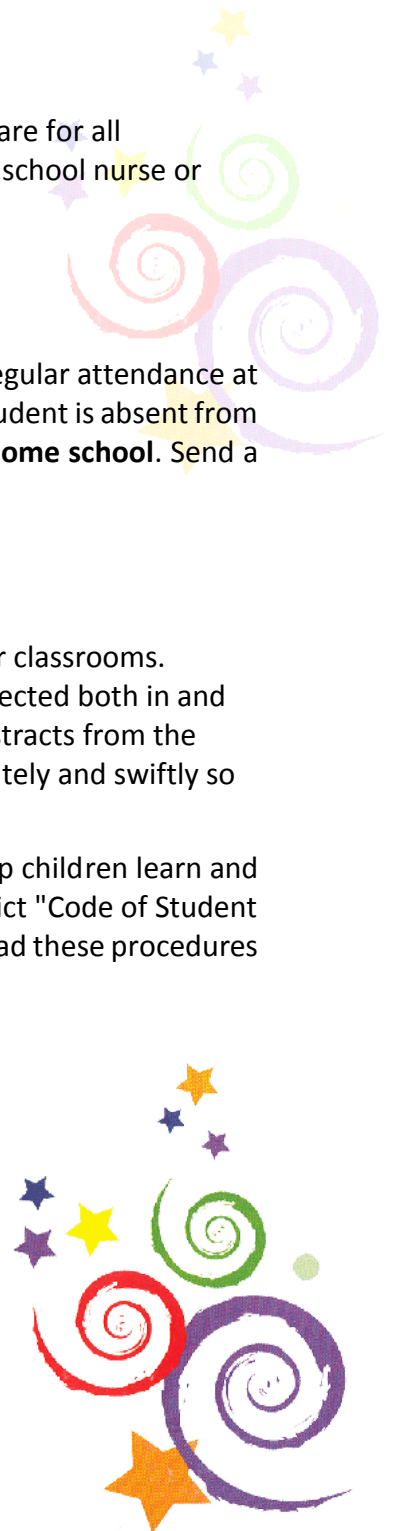
CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT:

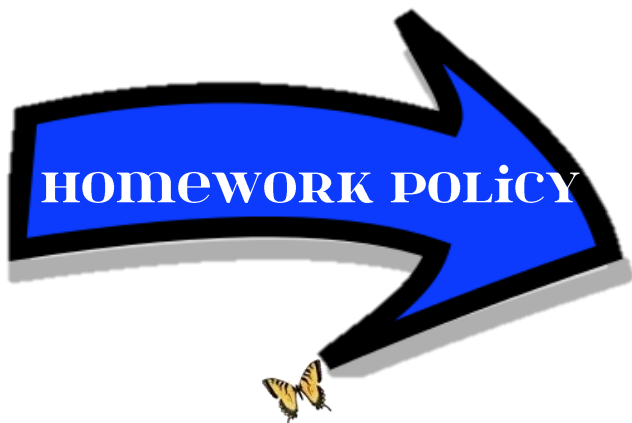
We will work very hard to ensure the safety of each and every student in our classrooms. Occasionally, there are situations that occur when students need to be redirected both in and outside the classroom. When a student's behavior becomes disruptive, it distracts from the learning of others. The teacher will try to work out minor problems immediately and swiftly so that learning remains constant.

It is extremely important that the teacher and parent work as a team to help children learn and respect the rules. The GATE program uses the Middletown City School District "Code of Student Conduct" for rules relating to student behavior. Therefore we ask that you read these procedures carefully. Copies of this are available in the school office.

Inclement Weather:

In the event of bad weather, or ice conditions, please listen to the following radio stations for school cancellations or delays: WPFB-Middletown, WHIO, WDTN-Dayton, WMOH-Hamilton, WOXY, WMUB-Oxford, all Cincinnati radio and TV stations. Please watch the Middletown School's Cable Station - Channel 24 for up-to-date information. If a delay is announced, GATE classes will also be delayed. In case of early dismissal because of bad weather, make sure your children know where to go after school dismissal.





(Board of Education Policy)

Students participating in the GATE program will spend one day per week at GATE. The work in the GATE class should replace the regular classroom work, and the student should not be expected to make up the missed assignments with the following exceptions:

1. The student will be responsible for learning new material that was presented to the class during his/her absence. The student should not be required to complete all written assignments connected with the new work that has been missed, but should be given an opportunity to demonstrate his/her understanding of the concepts involved through oral discussion or partial written assignments. If written assignments are required, the student will be given at least two days to complete them.¹
2. The student will be responsible for completing long term assignments such as research projects or book reports that may fall due on the day the student attends his/her GATE class. It will be the responsibilities of the student to arrange for a time to present his/her work either before or shortly after the assignment is due.
3. The student will be required to make up all tests which are given in the student's absence, unless the classroom teacher excuses the student from the test.

As with all children, the GATE student has individualized learning patterns. This student may be advanced in some, but not necessarily all, areas. Pupils of advanced ability should be excused from routine homework and should be encouraged to spend their time in original and creative expression and/or research.