

The Differences Between the AVID, GATE, and Scholars Programs at TRMS

| | AVID | GATE | Jr. Scholars |
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| What is the purpose of the program? | The purpose of the AVID program is to take students in the academic-middle (C's and B's) and prepare them for the rigor of college prep classes and college itself. Once AVID students are in high school, most are "A" and "B" students. | The purpose of the GATE program is to offer enriched and accelerated learning opportunities to meet the particular abilities of the students who are identified as being academically gifted. | The purpose of the Scholars program is to place our most successful children in a cohort of the school's brightest and hardest working students. Most are GATE-identified, but this is not a requirement to join the program. |
| Who is the typical student in this program? (List based on work of J. Szabos) | <i>A student in AVID usually:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knows the answers - Is interested - Has good ideas - Listens with interest - Needs 6-8 repetitions for mastery - Completes assignments - Copies accurately - Enjoys school - Absorbs information - Is pleased with own learning | <i>A student in GATE usually:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Asks the questions - Is highly curious - Has creative, imaginative ideas - Shows strong feelings & opinions - Needs 2-3 repetitions for mastery - Initiates projects - Creates a new design - Enjoys learning - Manipulates information - Can be highly self-critical | <i>A student in Scholars usually:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Asks the questions - Is highly curious - Has creative, imaginative ideas - Shows strong feelings & opinions - Needs 1-2 repetitions for mastery - Initiates projects - Creates a new design - Enjoys learning - Manipulates information - Can be highly self-critical |
| How do students enter the program? | It is a combination of average grades (a 2.0-3.4 GPA), positive teacher recommendations, and student interviews in which the student shows a strong desire to attend college and a need for assistance in reaching this goal. | Students are evaluated for evidence of giftedness. It is mostly based on a combination of high standardized test scores and a passing score on a GATE entrance exam. Gifted students comprise of about the top 5 percent of the population. | Students apply and/or are invited. A GPA of 3.4 is required for consideration. Remaining in the program from year-to-year may require even better grades; it is highly competitive. |
| What classes does a student in this program take? | Most students in the AVID program are enrolled in math, language arts, science, social studies, and PE classes with other AVID students. AVID students are required to have at least one period of AVID Elective. Most of the other students in their classes are also AVID students. | Most students in the GATE program are enrolled in CP (College Placement) math, CP language arts, CP science, CP social studies, PE, and an elective of their choice. Approximately two-thirds of the other students in their classes are also GATE students. The remaining students are academically high-achievers. | All of the students in the Scholars program are enrolled in pre-AP (Advance Placement) math, pre-AP language arts, pre-AP science, pre-AP social studies, PE, and an elective of their choice. Many Scholars students elect to be AVID tutors as their elective in 7 th and 8 th grade. |
| What are the key teaching methodologies that are used in the classroom? | WICOR (writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, reading) Collaborative Learning Groups Inquiry Method Focus Note-Taking Socratic Seminars/Philosophical Chairs Tutorial Sessions | Differentiated Instruction Critical Thinking Levels Universal Themes Tiered Assignments Curriculum Compacting Acceleration & Depth | Differentiated Instruction Critical Thinking Levels Universal Themes Tiered Assignments Curriculum Compacting Acceleration & Depth |
| Is the program rigorous? | Yes, to prepare the students for high school AP courses and eventually college. | Yes, to keep the gifted students interested and learning. | Yes, to prepare the students for AP (Advanced Placement) classes in high school. |
| Does the program offer structure and routine? | Yes. Most AVID students begin the program as 'C' students because they are deficient in these areas. All AVID students are required to keep similarly organized binders and take one style of notes – Focus Notes | Somewhat. For most gifted students, this is what makes school boring and tedious. High-performing GATE students should be encouraged to find routines that work well for themselves, and their notes should be taken only if really needed and in a format they create. 'Choice' is an important component of a GATE program. | The students in this program demand structure and routine from each other and from themselves. GATE strategies are also used in the pre-AP classes. |

| | AVID (continued) | GATE (continued) | Jr. Scholars (continued) |
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| Does the program prepare students for college? | Yes. This is the primary reason for the AVID program. AVID student will spend a great deal of time learning about the college experience and what it takes to reach this goal. They will attend many fieldtrips to universities. AVID students are generally the first in their family to go to college. | Somewhat. This is only one minor component of the GATE program. Gifted students are placed into CP (College Preparatory) classes, may have a fieldtrip to a university, and their teachers are encouraged to talk about the college experience as they do in all of their classes. | Yes. The primary purpose of this program is to ready the student to succeed in their high schools AP (Advanced Placement) classes where they can earn college credit before high school graduation. |
| Do the students have to maintain good grades? | Yes. AVID students who receive grades lower than "C" are given AVID alerts and in many cases are placed on AVID probation. If grades are not improved, AVID students are removed from the program. | No, some GATE students have low grades. If the low grades are because they are struggling to master the standards, they may be moved to other classes. These students are still invited to participate in all GATE field trips, assemblies, and enrichment opportunities. They will receive differentiated instruction in their non-CP classes. Some GATE students are best served in the AVID program if they meet AVID's criteria. A student cannot lose his or her GATE-identification because of low grades. | Yes. Each year about a third of the Scholars students are removed from the program because other students in the school out-perform them. Participation in the program is reviewed each year. Students with grades lower than a "B" may be removed immediately. If GATE-identified, they are usually returned to the GATE CP classes. |
| Can poor behavior result in removal from the program? | Yes. Students who show little academic growth, lack of determination, or social immaturity will be placed on strict behavior contracts. Students who are not serious about being in the program are removed. | No. Once a student is identified as being GATE, only a parent can authorize removal from the program. In very rare cases, students may be removed from their CP classes and moved into the general population, but they are still considered to be gifted students and may continue to participate in all GATE activities. | Yes. Students in the Scholars class must maintain a clean discipline record. |
| Are students in the program required to do service learning? | It is strongly encouraged, and they are given opportunities to help the school community. | No, service work should not be tied to a student's gifted identification. | Yes, 6-10 hours each semester. |
| Do the students participate in fundraising? | Yes, because AVID is a group that students elect to belong to. | No, because students are placed into GATE classes because of their identification as being gifted. | Yes, because Scholars is a group that students elect to belong to. |
| Are there field trips? | Yes, AVID students attend 2-3 field trips each year. Most of these field trips are to colleges. | Yes, GATE students attend 1 field trip each year. GATE students who are also in Scholars or AVID will attend all GATE trips. | Yes, Scholars students attend 1 field trip each year. A 3.0 GPA is required to attend. |
| Does the program offer after-school enrichment activities. | Some; however, this is not traditionally a primary component of the AVID program. Usually, these activities are related more to intervention assistance or doing social/service work. | Yes. GATE students are given ample opportunities to participate in high-interest extracurricular activities after school. | No, but the scholars students who are GATE-identified may continue to participate in all GATE activities. |
| Do the teachers receive special training? | Yes. Most of the teachers attend AVID institute for 3 days of training each summer. They also meet monthly to discuss AVID strategies. | Yes. Some of the teachers have GATE-certification from UCR. In addition, some of the teachers attend CAG most years. | Yes. Some of the teachers have received AP training from the county office of education. |
| Should my child be in this program? | Yes, if they have average to above average grades, a desire to attend college, and the capability to work even harder than they currently are. | Yes, if they are identified as being gifted. Identification takes place in late-winter each year. Contact the GATE facilitator if you would like your child to be evaluated. | Yes, if they are among the highest achievers in school, highly driven, and very well-behaved. |