

## Educational Equity

*Aligned with the vision of the Omaha Public Schools is the commitment to educational equity for all students, staff, and patrons of the school system. In all places and in all activities of the Omaha Public Schools, it is expected that every individual will be treated in a fair and equitable manner. All conduct will reflect a belief in the dignity and value of each person regardless of the individual's race, color, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, age, marital status, citizenship status, or economic status.*

*The GATE identification process strives to provide students with equal access to programming opportunities. The current identification process is designed to be inclusive rather than exclusive by including multiple criteria based on a combination of standardized instruments and non-standardized means and criteria, and a local needs assessment.*



## Get Involved!



Students will be notified of upcoming opportunities through morning announcements, school newsletters, and classroom teachers.

Students can also speak to the G.A.T.E. Facilitator about joining a competition or special activity.



**Mrs. Rachel Howe**  
G.A.T.E. Facilitator  
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## Gifted and Talented (G.A.T.E.)



### G.A.T.E. Mission

Gifted and Talented Education in the Omaha Public Schools strives to identify potentially gifted and exceptionally talented students across the district, nurture their social/emotional development and enhance their curriculum experiences so that these unique individuals may reach their fullest potential.

## Identification

The Nebraska Department of Education Rule 3 requires schools to develop a system to identify learners with high ability.

High ability learners are identified for GATE services by meeting indicators for at least 3 of four criteria:

- **COGNITIVE** – Top 5% at the school or national level on an *intelligence/cognitive* test
- **ACHIEVEMENT** – Top 5% at the school or national level on a standardized *grade-level achievement* test
- **MOTIVATION/PERFORMANCE** – “A” or Advanced (ADV) in 60% or more courses on the most recent semester grade report (equivalent to a 3.5 un-weighted GPA) OR qualifying staff referral/recommendation and/or participation.
- **CREATIVITY/LEADERSHIP** – Qualifying staff referral/recommendation and/ or participation.

Buffett Magnet Middle School offers many academic courses and activities to enrich the regular curriculum. Our Gifted and Talented Program is designed for students who wish to be challenged through academic competition, honors courses, and special activities.



## Honors Courses

Buffett Magnet Middle School offers the following honors courses:

- Advanced Math 6
- Honors Language Arts 7
- Honors Language Arts 8
- Honors Science 7
- Honors Physical Science 8
- Honors Pre-Algebra 1/2
- Honors Algebra 1/2
- Honors Geometry 1/2

Placement in honors and advanced courses is determined by standardized assessments, classroom performance and teacher recommendation.



## Events and Opportunities

While some students may not meet the criteria for identification, the Omaha Public Schools believes students throughout the district have talent and potential. Any student may still be involved in many of the GATE and school sponsored events and competitions.

These competition groups meet during homeroom or lunch. Students involved in each competition will receive a pass from the GATE facilitator with meeting times.

- Academic Pentathlon
- African American History Challenge
- Quiz Bowl
- Think Tank
- Poetry Slams (Fall and Spring)
- Book Blasters
- Scholars Program
- Science Olympiad
- History Day
- Duke TiP

Students have additional opportunities to be challenged through clubs, events, competitions and performances offered after school. These opportunities may include but are not limited to:

- National Junior Honor Society
- Student Council
- Music and Drama Performances
- Robotics
- Spelling Bee
- Geography Bee
- Math Counts
- Speech and Debate