

## What programs are available to identified Gifted Learners in the OJUSD?

### Kindergarten—Second

Although students at this age are not formally identified, K—2nd grade teachers are trained to recognize gifted students and provide appropriate differentiated instruction within the classroom.

### Third—Sixth Grade

Classroom teachers are trained to provide differentiated instruction to clusters of GATE students within their classroom. The classroom education is augmented by a pull-out program offered by Brenda Combs, GATE teacher. The pull-out program is available at all four elementary sites.

### Seventh—Twelfth Grade

Honors English, History, and Science are available at Oakdale Junior High. Algebra is available for qualifying 7th graders with the opportunity for Geometry in 8th grade. Algebra and Geometry texts and expectations are identical to the high school in order to ensure adequate preparation and a seamless transition into high school mat courses. Honors classes and advanced placement classes are available at the high school. Advanced Placement courses are available to sophomores, juniors, and seniors. These AP courses are quite rigorous and require extensive work outside of class time. Students who successfully pass the AP Exam at the end of the high school year may earn credits at most colleges and universities. Eligibility for AP and Honors classes is subject to the recommendation of the Placement Committee at the high school. The committee reviews many data sources: test scores (Raven's, OLSAT, Standardized Testing, District Benchmarks, and grade history), along with parent and teacher input. In addition to these classes, students have the opportunity to participate in band, choir, speech, leadership, art, drama, ROP, industrial technology, journalism, yearbook, and agricultural courses.

*In order to access more specific information regarding Oakdale Joint Unified School District's GATE Program, you may view our GATE Plan at: [www.oakdale.k12.ca.us](http://www.oakdale.k12.ca.us) (Resources for Parents).*

## How can parents get involved in their child's GATE education?

"Oakdale Supporters of the Gifted" meet on a regular basis. This is a local affiliate of California Association for the Gifted. Their meetings provide valuable information and support for the special challenges that parents of the gifted may encounter. This group is responsible for the "Super Saturday Program" that benefits all OJUSD students. For more information contact Rachel Jones at 847-7925.

The Gifted Learner Advisory Committee meets on a regular basis to advise upon the further development of the district's GATE Program and monitor its implementation. This group is comprised of parents, administrators and teachers with input from student focus groups. The group meets under the direction of Kristi Rapinchuk, Coordinator of Categorical programs.

### Teacher Support

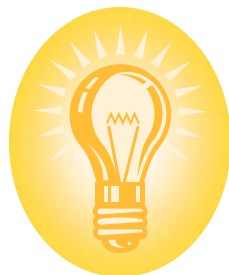
- Training for the teacher in the general education classroom developing strategies for working with gifted learners
- Ongoing program development and training

#### Brenda Combs

District Gifted Learner Teacher, grades 3-6  
Located at Cloverland Elementary School  
(209) 847-4276

#### Kristi Rapinchuk

OJUSD Coordinator of Categorical Programs  
Located at the District Office  
(209) 848-4884



# 2006-2007

- ★ Purpose
- ★ Goals
- ★ Programs
- ★ Identifying a Gifted Learner
- ★ Parent Involvement
- ★ Teacher Support

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## What is the purpose of OJUSD's Gifted Learner Program?

Education should offer every student opportunities to develop his or her learning abilities and potential to the fullest. The OJUSD has established the Gifted Learner Program to address the educational needs of students with high intellectual ability and/or demonstrated high achievement. OJUSD defines "Gifted Learners" as students who meet the district's established identification criteria.



## What are the goals of OJUSD's Gifted Learner Program?

- To help students progress through grade-level objectives, using materials and methods appropriate to student need, at a rate that is compatible with both comprehension challenge.
- To expand learning opportunities through a variety of activities that help students develop and use creative, logical and divergent thinking skills, problem-solving strategies, decision-making and leadership skills, as well as critical thinking, written and verbal communication skills.
- To prepare students for life long learning.

## How are students identified to participate in OJUSD's Gifted Learner Program?

*Students may be identified in several ways:*

### High Intellectual Potential (grades 3-12)

Students who score at or above the 95th percentile on the group administered Raven's Progressive Matrices are identified as a Gifted Learner. The Raven's is administered to all students during the spring of their 2nd grade year. When a retest is requested, the OLSAT (Otis Lenin School Ability Test) may be used. At least two years must elapse before a student may retake either the Raven's or the OLSAT.

### High Achievement (grades 4-12)

Students who score at or above the 95th percentile (see note below) in any given year on both the Math and English Language Arts sections of the Content Standards Test are identified as Gifted Learners. The Content Standards test is administered during the spring of each year to students in grades 2-11.



### High Achievement and Intellectual Potential (grades 4-12)

Students who score at or above the 95th percentile (see note below) on either the Math or English Language Arts sections of the Content Standards Test and have scored at or above 90th percentile on the Raven's Progressive Matrices (or demonstrate equal achievement on the OLSAT) are identified as a Gifted Learner.

### Specific Academic Ability (grades 7-12)

Students who score at or above the 98th percentile (see note below) twice over the course of three years on either the Math or English Language Arts sections of the Content Standards Test are identified as a Gifted Learner and may be placed in related junior high honors classes or high school honors or advanced placement classes. Junior high school and high school honors class criterion and then staff/parent recommendation are used to complete the honors class and advanced placement class rosters.

### NOTE

The district office generates percentile ranking lists for both the Math and English Language Arts sections of the Content Standards tests. These lists are provided to school site administrators.

*Teachers, parents, or students in grades 7 or above may complete referrals for Raven's or OLSAT testing. Referral forms are available at all school site offices.*

### OJUSD

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