



CSS GATE TESTING AND IDENTIFICATION

2017-2018

GATE PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- GATE Mission Statement: The goal of the GATE program is to serve the unique academic and social-emotional needs of gifted and high-achieving students at Cold Spring School.
- All teachers TK-6 recognize the need for differentiated instruction to students who are high-achieving or too young to qualify for services.
- The curriculum enriches and expands basic grade level objectives by providing and focusing on:
 - A stimulating and creative atmosphere conducive to high achievement by exploring, experimenting, and challenging students
 - Differentiated opportunities for learning appropriate to the particular abilities and talents of gifted and talented students
 - Inclusion of critical thinking and decision making throughout the curriculum
 - Opportunities for student leadership (Student Council)
 - Additional opportunities for enrichment (Math Club, Math Superbowl, Battle of the Books, Art Fair, School-wide Spelling Bee, Science Fair, Technology, Coding, Robotics, STEAM, Writing Club)

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA

- CogAT - Cognitive Abilities Test - a nationally standardized, norm-referenced test
 - It measures reasoning and problem-solving skills in three different areas: verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal.
 - Reasoning skills develop gradually throughout a person's lifetime and at different rates for different individuals.
 - Reasoning abilities are good predictors of success in school.
 - CogAT does not measure such factors as effort, attention, motivation, or work habits.
- There are three sections of the CogAT:
 - The **Verbal Battery** measures flexibility, fluency, and adaptability in reasoning with verbal materials and in solving verbal problems. These reasoning abilities play an important role in reading comprehension, critical thinking, writing, and virtually all verbal learning tasks.
 - The **Quantitative Battery** measures quantitative reasoning skills; flexibility and fluency in working with quantitative symbols and concepts; and the ability to organize, structure, and give meaning to an unordered set of numerals and other mathematical symbols. These reasoning skills are significantly related to problem solving in math and other disciplines.
 - The **Nonverbal Battery** measures reasoning using geometric shapes and figures. To perform successfully, students must invent strategies for solving novel problems. They must be flexible in using these strategies and accurate in implementing them.

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA (CONT.)

- Cold Spring School District: GATE Program Eligibility Criteria
 - The criteria considered for GATE Program identification includes the scores on the three subtests and the composite score of the subtests of the CogAT.
- Currently, students will be identified by the following standard:
 - The student has a composite score on the CogAT in the 95th percentile or above.
 - OR, two or more sub scale scores, with one having to be nonverbal, on the CogAT in the 95th percentile or above.

TESTING CALENDAR/BUDGET

	<u>Past</u>	<u>2017-2018</u>	<u>2018-2019</u>
<u>Who is tested?</u>	► 4th grade students	► 2nd through 4th grade students	► 2nd grade students
<u>When do we test?</u>	► February/March.	► November	► November
<u>Which test?</u>	► Complete CogAT - 4 hours, online	► Screener - 1 hour, online	► Screener - 1 hour, online
<u>Cost to the District?</u>	► \$11.50/student	► \$8/student; \$825 total cost	► \$8/student; \$240 total cost

COGAT - UNIVERSAL SCREENER

- What is “Universal Screening”? - identification practice where **all students** in a targeted grade are administered a screening instrument.
- The screener takes 1 hour to administer. It assesses one subtest from each category: verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal.
- All students in grades 2, 3, and 4 would take the screener this year. Students new to CSS in 5th will be given the screener as well.
- Scoring at or above the 95th percentile on the screener leads to placement for GATE support services.
- Of the students assessed, research demonstrates that usually 10% of those students will qualify as GATE.
- How does this support students?
 - More instructional time (1 hour of instructional time instead of 4 hours), same information will be provided to teachers, reduced cost to the district, reduces excessive placement testing
 - Gate eligibility at Cold Spring School is based on the criteria used in the Santa Barbara School District. Therefore, students identified as GATE eligible at Cold Spring School will maintain their status upon enrolling in the Santa Barbara Secondary District.

THANK YOU!

