Students are notified of upcoming opportunities through daily announcements, the monthly newsletter, and classroom teachers. Involvement in many of the clubs, competitions, and other activities may require time out of class and/or after-school meetings.

Events and Opportunities

The following events are sponsored by GATE:
- Academic Pentathlon (USAD)
- Think Tank
- Poetry Slams (Fall and Spring)
- Academic Quiz Bowls
- Book Blasters
- Scholars Program
- National Junior Honor Society
- Math Team
- Music and Drama Performances
- Robotics
- Science Club
- Science and Engineering Fairs
- Speech and Debate
- Science and Engineering Fairs
- Speech and Debate

Students have additional opportunities to be challenged through clubs, events, competitions, and performances offered at Davis Middle School. These opportunities include:

- National Junior Honor Society
- Math Team
- Music and Drama Performances
- Robotics
- Science Club
- Science and Engineering Fairs
- Speech and Debate
- spelling Bee

How to Get Involved

Students are notified of upcoming opportunities through daily announcements, the monthly newsletter, and classroom teachers. Involvement in many of the clubs, competitions, and other activities may require time out of class and/or after-school meetings.

Contact Information

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Believe in Yourself
Use Your Brain
Never Quit
Expect to Win

Programs and Opportunities for Gifted and Talented Students

Where a student's future takes off!
**Gifted and Talented Education 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.

**Curriculum**

Gifted and Talented Education in the Omaha Public Schools is committed to developing students through a curriculum framework focused on:

- Problem Solving,
- Critical Thinking,
- Creative Thinking,
- Inquiry,
- Cultural Proficiency,
- Meta-Cognition (Self-Reflection), and
- Affective Skills (Positive and healthy habits for working independently and with others).

**Honors Courses**

Classroom teachers meet the needs of high ability learners on a daily basis through classroom differentiation. Additionally, all OPS middle schools offer honors courses in English/Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. These courses enhance and enrich learning experiences for students by differentiating through PACE (accelerating the instructional practices), DEPTH (deepening the discipline knowledge and practice) and COMPLEXITY (using sophisticated levels of advanced thinking).

All OPS middle schools offer:

- Honors Language Arts 7
- Honors Language Arts 8
- Honors Physical Science (Grade 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 other established criteria.

In some cases, students may require academic course offerings not available at the middle school. Students and families may work with the school’s GATE Facilitator to complete an acceleration agreement that may involve such options as distance learning or high school placement. Grade-level acceleration or grade-skipping can also be considered through a process involving an Iowa Acceleration Scale (IAS).

**Identification**

The Nebraska Department of Education, Rule 3, requires schools to develop a system to identify learners with high ability. Starting with the 2016-2017 school year, high ability learners will be identified for GATE services by meeting indicators for at three of the four criteria:

- **COGNITIVE**—Top 5% at the school or national level on an intelligence/cognitive assessment
- **ACHIEVEMENT**—Tops 5% at the school or national level on a standardized grade-level achievement assessment
- **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

While some students may not meet the criteria for identification, Omaha Public Schools believes students throughout the district have talent and potential. A student may still be involved in many of the GATE and school sponsored events and competitions. This involvement may serve as an indicator for the Motivation/Performance or Creativity/Leadership criteria towards permanent identification.