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 Special Projects is a course middle schools may offer that aligns to the GATE framework and provides learning experiences for students that focus on the process of learning through a variety of content options.

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

**How do I get involved?**  Students will be notified of events through daily announcements, Monroe's website, and quarterly newsletters. Involvement in clubs and competitions may require time outside of class.

**GATE Mission Statement**

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.
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 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

While some students may not meet the criteria for identification, the 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.

### Academic Pentathlon
The newest program of the United States Academic Decathlon for middle school students includes rigorous team and individual competition in five events: Language and Literature, Mathematics, Music, Science, and Social Studies.

### Book Blasters
A district-wide competition that involves a team of students who read approximately 12 selected novels and compete in application activities

### Duke Talent Identification Program (Duke TIP)
The 7th grade talent search through Duke University provides an opportunity for high ability students to pursue an above-level testing experience.

### Poetry SLAMS
Each fall and spring student poets from each middle school take the stage and share their writing with their peers.

### Quiz Bowl
Quiz Bowl is an academic competition. A four-member team competes against the clock answering questions from various disciplines.

### Scholars
Seventh and Eighth grade students (selected) for the Scholars program learn more about themselves and achieve success at school. Various events are planned to prepare students for their high school years and post-secondary education.

### Think Tank
Think Tank is a competitive problem-solving event for 7th and 8th graders held on the UNO campus. This day-long event features a game that involves creative problem solving.

### Monroe Enrichment: Contests and Activities

**African American History Challenge:** A national educational program designed by the 100 Black Men of America, Inc. to enhance the study of African-American history.

**History Day:** Students have the opportunity to participate in the National History Day Contest. Each year there is a theme that presents students with many fascinating opportunities to explore history.

**Geography Bee:** National Geographic sponsors a competition on physical and social geography. All students at Monroe participate in the first round with the top students advancing to the next round.

**Spelling Bee:** The Omaha World Herald sponsors the Spelling Bee. This competition is open to all students. Students participate in school spelling bees with the top advancing to the District Spelling Bee at TAC.

**Science Olympiad:** A competition in which students compete in events pertaining to various scientific disciplines, including earth science, biology, chemistry, physics, and engineering.

**Vex Robotics:** Students build and program robots in cooperation with Benson High School and compete at various events during the year.