



DIXIE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Office of Educational Services

380 Nova Albion Way ♦ San Rafael, CA 94903 ♦ 415-492-3704 ♦ Fax: 415-492-3707

March 5, 2010

To the Parents of Third Grade Students:

The Dixie School District provides a program for children with high intellectual ability and achievement. The GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) program is designed to meet the needs and learning styles unique to gifted children. This program includes differentiated curriculum within the regular classroom as well as after school instructional activities during the school year.

Eligibility for GATE placement is determined on a student-by-student basis with the following criteria to be considered by a district placement committee. The criteria will include:

- Ability test data, Otis Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) The State of California has targeted the top 2% of students statewide to be eligible for GATE programs. A student needs to achieve 98% to 99% on the OSLAT to automatically qualify for GATE.

If a student does not automatically qualify based on his/her OSLAT scores, other criteria will be considered. These additional criteria include:

- Available achievement test (CST) data from second grade (A score of Advanced on the ELA or Math CSTs). Please check your child's Parent STAR Report sent in August 2009 for your child's scores.
- Additional input from teachers, principals, or parents
- Other unique factors and/or special circumstances that may mask exceptionally high intellectual or academic potential

A certificated teacher will administer the Otis Lennon School Ability Test for the Dixie School District. With your recommendation and permission, your child will be tested the week of April 26, 2010 on the Otis Lennon School Ability Test.

If you would like your child to participate in GATE eligibility testing (OLSAT), your permission is needed. Please **sign** and return the attached Parent Permission Form, which gives permission for your child to be tested. Completed form is due to the Office of Educational Services by **April 9, 2010** to be scheduled for the spring testing.

The placement committee will meet in late June to consider each child's candidacy based on multiple assessment criteria described above. Parents will be notified in August 2010.

Sincerely,

Judith Arrow
Director of Educational Services

Dixie School District
Office of Educational Services

PARENT PERMISSION

**OTIS LENNON SCHOOL ABILITY TEST (OLSAT)
FOR GATE ELIGIBILITY, SPRING 2010**

Yes, I would like my child, _____, tested on the OLSAT.
(Please print student's full name)

_____ (child's school) _____ (grade in spring 2010) _____ (teacher)

I give my permission to have my child tested for GATE eligibility in the spring of 2010.

_____ () _____
Parent Signature Telephone Number Date

E-mail address: _____

No, I do not wish my child, _____, to participate in further GATE eligibility testing.

_____ () _____
Parent Signature Telephone Number Date