



Gifted & Talented Education Program (GATE) FAQs

What is the GATE Program?

The Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Program at St. Paul's supports students who demonstrate exceptional intellectual ability and require enriched and differentiated learning opportunities. The program is designed to challenge students academically while supporting their social, emotional, and spiritual growth within a Catholic learning environment.

What assessment is required for entry into the GATE Program?

A full psychological-educational assessment completed by a registered psychologist is required for entry into the GATE Program.

To qualify, the assessment must indicate:

- A Full Scale IQ (FSIQ) of 125 or higher

This assessment provides essential information to ensure the program is an appropriate fit for the student's learning needs.

Who arranges the psychological-educational assessment?

Psychological-educational assessments are arranged and funded by families. Families share assessment results with the school to support the identification and placement process.

Are there any additional costs for the GATE program?

No. Aside from the Psychological educational assessment, there is no other cost for the GATE program. Families will incur the common costs associated with any homeroom classroom, including school fees, field trip costs, school supplies, etc.

Are other factors considered in addition to IQ?

Yes. In addition to meeting the IQ requirement, the school considers:

- Academic performance
- Learning behaviours and work habits
- Social and emotional readiness
- The student's ability to benefit from a self-contained, enriched learning environment

Final placement decisions are made collaboratively and in the best interest of the student.

What grades are offered in the GATE Program?

For the **2026–2027 school year**, St. Paul's will offer **two GATE cohorts**:

- **Grades 2/3 GATE cohort**
- **Grades 4/5 GATE cohort**

Each cohort is structured to support students at similar developmental and academic stages.



Is the GATE Program a separate classroom?

Yes. The GATE Program is delivered in a separate, self-contained classroom; one for the Grades 2/3 cohort and one for the 4/5 cohort. Students enrolled in GATE learn together with peers who have similar learning needs and abilities, allowing for targeted instruction, enrichment, and pacing.

What about Grade 6 GATE Students?

There are many unique opportunities that come with being a Grade 6 student at St. Paul, including office monitoring, lunch monitoring, Leadership Team and planning whole school activities. It is also a year in which students write Provincial Achievement Exams. To support this, Grade 6 GATE students remain in their homeroom Grade 6 class for the morning, and join the 4/5 GATE cohort two-three afternoons a week.

What is the size of a GATE classroom cohort?

To best support the needs of gifted learners and the inquiry-based, combined-grade structure of the program, GATE classroom cohorts ideally consist of approximately 20 students.

This cohort size:

- Supports a higher teacher-to-student ratio
- Allows for more individualized instruction and feedback
- Supports flexible grouping and collaborative inquiry
- Meets the learning and social-emotional needs of students in a combined classroom setting

What does learning look like in the GATE classroom?

GATE programming may include:

- Enriched and accelerated curriculum
- Higher-order thinking and problem-solving
- Inquiry- and project-based learning
- Opportunities for creativity, leadership, and collaboration

Instruction is aligned with the Alberta curriculum while offering greater depth, complexity, and challenge.

What do students learn in the GATE classroom?

Teachers in the GATE classroom are professionally obligated and mandated to teach the Alberta Program of Studies.

While the delivery of instruction, learning experiences, competencies, and projects may look different in the GATE classroom, students are learning and engaging with their grade-level Alberta curriculum.

Key points for families to know:

- All instruction is aligned with the Alberta Program of Studies

- Learning outcomes are taught at the appropriate grade level
- Assignments and assessments are fully aligned with provincial outcomes
- Enrichment occurs through depth, complexity, inquiry, and pace, not through replacing curriculum expectations

Parents and guardians can view the learning outcomes for each grade level and subject area by visiting the [LearnAlberta website](#).

How does the GATE Program support social and emotional development?

Gifted students may experience unique social and emotional needs. The GATE Program supports students by:

- Building resilience and perseverance
- Encouraging healthy peer relationships
- Supporting self-awareness and emotional regulation
- Developing leadership and collaboration skills

This approach reflects Catholic values of dignity, respect, and care for the whole child

How is Catholic faith integrated into the GATE Program?

Faith formation is central to all learning at St. Paul's. In the GATE classroom, students are encouraged to:

- Recognize their gifts as blessings from God
- Use their talents in service of others
- Engage in ethical decision-making grounded in Catholic teachings

Can students enter or exit the GATE Program?

Yes. Student placement is reviewed over time. Changes may occur based on:

- Academic progress
- Social and emotional well-being
- Ongoing collaboration between the school and family
- Entry and exits from the program are facilitated at the end of the current grade level

How can parents/guardians support their child in GATE?

Parents and guardians can support their child by:

- Encouraging curiosity and a love of learning
- Supporting balance between academics, faith, and well-being
- Maintaining open communication with the school

For More Information:

[Government of Alberta, Planning for Students Who are Gifted](#)

[The School Wide Enrichment Model: A Focus on Students Strengths and Interests](#)

[National Association for Gifted Children](#)

[Supporting the Emotional Needs of Gifted Children](#)

[Profiles of the Gifted and Talented Student](#)

[Intelligence, IQ, Tests and Assessments: What Do Parents Need to Know?](#)

[Is My Child Gifted?](#)

[Differentiated Instruction](#)