

## Our Mission

The CHALLENGE PROGRAM AT VISTA VERDE offers differentiated curricular choices to identified GATE and high achieving students. The instructional program is designed to challenge students through acceleration, complexity, depth, creativity, variety, and higher level critical thinking.



We choose the life of challenge!



**VISTA VERDE SCHOOL**

**6 Federation Drive**

**Irvine California 92603**

**Phone: 949-936-6350**

**Web Site: <http://www.iusd.org>**

VISTA VERDE SCHOOL

## Challenge Program



**For  
GATE  
and  
High Achieving Students**

## Identification of GATE Students

The student identified as gifted will meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Score in the 95% or above in Total Reading, Total Language, and Total Math on the CST achievement test
- Score in the 95% or above on the Otis-Lennon (OLSAT) intelligence test
- Be in the upper 2% nationally in intellectual ability
- Consistently function at an exceptionally advanced level in multiple academic areas
- Consistently function at an exceptionally advanced level in a single academic area

## Instructional Strategies

### **Accelerated Curriculum**

exposes students to the regular curriculum at a faster pace or in greater depth than their same-age peers.

### **Cluster Grouping**

places small groups of gifted students in a classroom with the remainder of the class composed of a standard distribution of ability levels.

### **Curriculum Compacting**

pre-assesses students in curriculum content areas. Students who demonstrate mastery of a topic are encouraged to pursue alternate learning activities.

### **Differentiated Instruction**

encourages teachers to consistently and proactively modify what goes on in the classroom to meet the needs of all students by providing different avenues to acquiring content or processing data.

### **Extracurricular Programs**

may include district and other competitions such as Science Fair, Young Writers Word Masters, OCDE Academic Pentathlon, etc., and may also include school clubs and programs.

### **Mentorship**

provides opportunities for advanced students to explore an interest area with an adult mentor.

### **Pull-Out**

These are programs in which identified gifted students are "pulled out" of part of their regular school day to participate in separate assignments.

### **Regrouping for Instruction**

Students remain in heterogeneous classes for most of the day but are regrouped by achievement and/or performance within a grade level for specific subjects.

## Differentiation Strategies

### **Acceleration**

refers to the concept of altering pace or speed of learning and providing more sophisticated resources for learning in order to challenge learners.

### **Depth**

refers to the concept of challenging learners by enabling them to venture further, deeper, and more elaborately into the area under study.

### **Complexity**

refers to the concept of broadening the learners' understanding of the areas under study by asking him/her to make connections, relationships, and associations.

### **Novelty**

refers to the concept of gaining a personal understanding of the area under study or constructing meaning of knowledge in an individualized manner.

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