

**MIDDLE SCHOOL
ACADEMIC TALENT
PROGRAM**

**PARENT/STUDENT
INFORMATION MEETING**

**San Ramon Valley
Unified School
District**

November 28, 2023

4:15pm - 5:15pm

Agenda

- **Introductions**
- **What is/isn't Middle School ATP**
- **ATP Core**
- **What about Math?**
- **Middle School Experience**
- **Selection Criteria**
- **Timeline**

2023-2024 6TH GRADE ATP MIDDLE SCHOOL LOCATIONS

Diablo Vista Middle School

Principal: Jeff Osborne

Teacher: Amy Lipke



Gale Ranch Middle School

Principal: Jenny Torres

Teacher: Lauren Geche



Windemere Ranch Middle School

Principal: Sharon Baltazar

Teacher: Kirstin Souza



What is Academic Talent Program (ATP)?

- **Magnet program serving:**
 - Highly gifted students with unique needs
 - Students with similar abilities and interests
 - Grade level differentiated curriculum
- **A place for students who thrive in a challenging environment**
- **A special needs program** (similar to special education programs) for students who regularly demonstrate need and desire for different learning setting

WHAT IS MIDDLE SCHOOL ATP?

- Not the same as Elementary School ATP - MS ATP for just Core (English/Language Arts and History) subjects only
- Magnet program serving highly gifted students in English and History
- **Math has a separate placement criteria**
- Similar abilities and interests
- Middle School experience



WHAT MIDDLE SCHOOL ATP IS NOT

- Not a gateway to selective colleges
- Not a gateway to advanced or Honors/AP classes- students are placed in courses regardless of ATP or GATE
- Not printed on the high school transcript
- Not a class for only well-behaved, high achieving students
- Not a class where additional homework is assigned
- Not skipping a grade
- Not intended to be a competitive environment
- Not for students whose primary strength is math

Potential Challenges and Lessons Learned, as Told by Former ATP Students and Parents

- Disrupting current social connections and friendships at school could be hurtful
- Returning back to home school (for middle school or high school) could be difficult transition
- Providing other outlets for creativity, interests, and skill-building may better meet needs
- Being in high-rigor environment can be very stressful and could set up students for failure
- Parents need to focus on their child's unique needs without comparing with other children
- Cohorted through 6th, 7th & 8th grade
- Displacement from home school / transportation

SIXTH GRADE CORE

- Literature and informational text based
- Curricular extension
- Greater depth/breadth of study in Language Arts
- Cross curricular research
- Writing and word work: narrative, argumentative, informational
- Developing concepts in a complex manner
- Integrated Social Studies

Who is Middle School ATP for? Reading and Writing

- Students who are learning focused and not grade focused.
- Students who possesses an interest in rigorous problem-solving, a keen power of abstraction, and developed critical thinking skills
 - Characteristics include: communication skills, focus, curiosity, self motivation and awareness
- Students who may have difficulty connecting with other students in class and demonstrate need to be with like-minded students.
- Student's desire to be in such a program is crucial in his/her success.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ATP MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSROOM

- California State Standards underlie instruction
- English/Social Studies CORE classroom
 - Differentiated instruction, rigor, more analytical
- Project Based Learning
 - Inquiry cross curricular
 - Student independence and collaborative ability expected

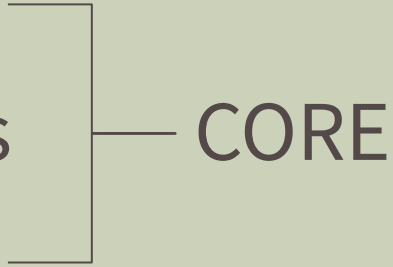
DIFFERENTIATED CURRICULUM

- In depth critical thinking skills
- Emphasis on creativity and originality
- Focus on communication
- Accelerated pace
- Collaborative and independent learning



ATP FOLLOWS THE MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPERIENCE & SCHEDULE

7 period day that includes:

- History
 - Language Arts
 - Reading
 - Math
 - Physical Education
 - Science
 - Elective
- 
- CORE

MATHEMATICS

- Math Placement Process is used for appropriate course placement - all incoming 6th graders, including those selected for MS ATP, need to take this test in order make an informed decision about advancing into 7th grade math as a 6th grader.
- **Reminder: Math Pathway and Middle School ATP are separate placements**
- **All math information can be found on the [SRVUSD website](#).**

Selection Criteria

- CogAT Score was used for initial eligibility only
- Measures collected
 - Writing Sample
 - English Language Arts task
 - ELA assessment data
 - Survey for Gifted Traits

TIMELINE

November 28	Interest Form Emailed to Families
December 15	Interest Form Due by 8:00am
January 20	Multiple Measures Administration
February 6	ATP Eligible Students Determined
February 13	Commitments Due from Eligible Families