



Gifted/Talented Programs Advanced Learning Options

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF SPECIAL EDUCATION, EQUITY AND SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS

Visual Arts Ability Category Overview

For School Sites ONLY



What are the characteristics of students with exemplary Visual Arts (VA) ability?

Students with exemplary visual arts ability are those who can engage in the visual arts and are markedly advanced in relation to their chronological peers. Some characteristics are:

- Takes artwork seriously; finds satisfaction in producing or sharing artwork
- Is willing to try out new materials and experiences
- Fills extra time with drawing, painting, and creating
- Portrays own experiences and feelings in artwork
- Can appreciate, evaluate, and learn from others' artwork

For a complete list of characteristics, schools should refer to Attachment H (VA) found in REF-5234.4.



What are the referral requirements for the VA category?

The Visual Arts Ability category referral requires completion of the following for each student referred:

- 1) An online GATE application (MiSiS)
- 2) Documentation/Paperwork (Reference Guide 5234.4)
 - Attachment E (VA): Parent Consent
 - Attachment F (VA): Request for Assessment Cover Sheet
- 3) Fee-for-Service (Charter Schools Only)



How are referrals submitted?

VA referrals and paperwork should be submitted by the school GATE coordinator **via email to GATE@lausd.net or LAUSD school mail to Gifted/Talented Programs, Beaudry site 25th floor, ATTN: VAPA**, no later than the third Wednesday in October (Fall Auditions) and the third Wednesday in April (Spring Auditions) each year.

- Schools submitting multiple student referrals at the same time may do so in one email.
- Incomplete referrals will not be processed or evaluated.
- Referral paperwork that is emailed must be submitted as PDF files. JPEG/PNG files are not accepted.
- Visual Arts Ability referrals are evaluated twice a year by Gifted/Talented Programs through a demonstration process.
- Students who do not qualify can be reassessed after one year using the same process.

How is a student assessed?

The assessment in the visual arts consists of **two parts**: An evaluation of artwork prepared by the candidate during the **demonstration** and an evaluation of a **portfolio** of artwork. Students will receive an invitation letter, which must be brought to the demonstration.

DEMONSTRATION

The demonstration consists of candidates working unassisted within time limits on two art exercises. Students will use familiar art materials to draw from observation and imagination. The process will take approximately three hours.

Still Life

For this drawing, a still life is set up in the classroom and students are given one hour to draw at least three items they see in the still life.

Free Draw

For this drawing, students are given one hour to do a drawing of their choice using any of the provided materials. Materials may include crayon, pencil, marker, oil pastel, or charcoal.

PORTFOLIO

- The student submits a portfolio by uploading photos to the Schoology course created by Gifted/Talented Programs.
- The portfolio should contain a variety of no more than six to ten pieces of the candidate's original artwork. Please do not include only one type of artwork such as all digital art. Portfolios should contain samples of artwork that include a selection of media but is not limited to the examples listed on the next page.
- Student artwork must be age-appropriate, current, and must illustrate the student's overall knowledge of the elements of art, composition, and color theory.



What goes in the portfolio?

The portfolio should contain a variety of no more than six to ten pieces of the candidate's original artwork. Portfolios should contain samples of artwork that include a selection of media but is not limited to the examples listed. Please do not include only one type of artwork such as all digital art. Student artwork must be age-appropriate, current, and must illustrate the student's overall knowledge of the elements of art, composition, and color theory.

Examples of Portfolio Artifacts

- Watercolor paintings
- Still life drawings
- Landscapes
- Figure drawings
- Portraits
- Pieces done for class projects are allowable, if independent individual artwork is produced



Media Examples

- Charcoal; Conte or crayon/charcoal
- Oil pastels
- Mixed media
- Pen and ink
- Pencil
- Prisma
- Tempera
- Watercolors
- Digital Art



What not to include in the portfolio

- Copied cartoons, doodles, or Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated artwork
- Pencil or pen tracings of commercial art
- Painting by numbers
- Class assignments where all artwork produced looks the same
- Work over three years old
- DVDs, slides, or PowerPoint presentations
- Copies of copyrighted figures, commercial illustrations, calendars, or direct, un-interpreted renderings of photographs