



Welcome to Tuffree GATE Education

Tuffree Middle School offers an academic program that strives to challenge its students with rigorous and creative content. Presently, one-fourth of our student population is enrolled in a GATE/ honors class. GATE students are “clustered” into academic classes with high achieving honors students in language arts, social studies, math, and science. Further opportunities to challenge GATE students exist in our exemplary electives program. Socially, GATE students can develop positive relationships with all of Tuffree’s diverse student body in elective classes, clubs, and lunchtime activities. The goal of Tuffree’s GATE program is to give these unique students the opportunity to excel in a challenging environment academically, but to enjoy creative and social outlets as well.

At Tuffree, our GATE/ honors classes maintain a high level of rigor and depth. All GATE and honors teachers have received many years of GATE education training and are experienced in differentiating curriculum to meet the needs our gifted population. In language arts, social studies, and science, strategies such as WICOR (writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading), depth and complexity, Socratic seminar, and close reading are frequently employed to challenge our GATE students. Furthermore, frequent opportunities exist in a GATE/ honors class that allow gifted students the opportunity to participate in more independent, self-paced projects and assignments and to collaborate with peers in creative, technologically driven school work. In math, GATE students are placed in classes based upon level of competence which is determined by district placement test scores. Tuffree offers high school level geometry for 8th grade students who have successfully completed algebra. Students who successfully complete geometry at Tuffree would be enrolled in algebra II in their freshman year of high school.

Tuffree's outstanding electives classes continue to be yet another area GATE students distinguish themselves. Our school is extremely proud of our award winning music program, which consists of two jazz bands, a marching band, orchestra, string quartet, and colorguard. Gifted students who excel at singing participate in our audition level vocal ensemble and musical productions such as Alice in Wonderland. Our technology elective (STEM lab) interests many students and has garnered much publicity. Furthermore, many GATE students are chosen to participate in leadership driven classes such as ASB, WEB, yearbook, and Falcon Films. Our Spanish elective continues to be a popular choice among gifted students, and those who successfully complete two years of Spanish at Tuffree bypass Spanish I in high school and are enrolled in Spanish II as freshmen.

Tuffree Middle School prides itself on maintaining a school atmosphere where all students feel challenged by the academic content of their classes, inspired by creative outlets and/ or leadership opportunities, and supported and welcomed in all social settings. These standards help ensure our Tuffree Falcons will "fly to new heights" in high school and beyond!

If you have any questions, please contact Tuffree's GATE coordinator Erika Mayer at emayer@pylusd.org.