



Parent Newsletter

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Gifted Pathways for Secondary Students

How are classes chosen for your gifted child in middle and high school?

Understanding your child's class schedule once they leave elementary school is a mystery to many parents. All secondary schools, middle and high schools, develop a master schedule and assign students' classes within the schedule. How do you know what the different class titles mean and how can you be sure your child is in the appropriate classes? This article aims to demystify secondary schedules for students identified as gifted in all seven categories and guide you on what steps to take if you feel your child is not placed in the appropriate classes.

Starting in middle school, students identified in the **Intellectual Ability, High Achievement, Specific Academic Ability, Creative Ability, and Leadership Ability** categories should be clustered in groups of 15-25 with other gifted learners. They may also be assigned to honors classes based on availability of those classes at their particular school. Honors classes are typically available in English, history, and science. Honors courses provide advanced content and challenge students. Students who demonstrate advanced skills in mathematics may be eligible for placement in Accelerated Math Pathways. Students must test into these pathways and not all gifted students will qualify. In the case that they do not qualify, the gifted learner will be placed in the grade level math course in a gifted cluster and provided differentiation. For more information on the different math pathways, visit the Mathematics Pathways page at <https://achieve.lausd.net/Page/11659> or call (213) 241-6444. These placements should occur at all middle schools, including gifted magnets and Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS).

In high school, students should still be clustered and assigned to honors classes. Also available in high school are Advanced Placement classes. Advanced Placement (AP) is a program created by the College Board which offers college-level courses and examinations to high school students. Many American colleges and universities grant course credit or advanced placement to students who obtain qualifying scores (3-5) on the exams. Students must request AP classes and these courses are available to all students, not just gifted students. Each high school offers a different selection of AP classes. It is recommended you speak with your child's counselor about which classes are available and which might be a good fit for your child.

If your child is identified as gifted in **Visual Arts Ability or Performing Arts**

Family Day Out

Free ideas for family time

Enjoy fun educational activities including live music, dance, arts workshops and more at the Día de los Niños, Sunday, April 28, 2019, at the Plaza de Cultura y Artes. For more information visit lapca.org/content/la-plaza-public-programs-2019.

Attend a [NASA lecture](#) on Cubesats. Also known collectively as small satellites, cubesats are changing the way we explore space and monitor our home planet. The lectures are on May 9, 2019, and May 10, 2019. Visit www.jpl.nasa.gov/events/lectures.php for more information.

View the city from the Observation Deck of City Hall! Enter City Hall on the eastern side off Main St. Take two elevators and a set of stairs up to the observation deck. Check out the City Hall Guide for kids for this and other cool activities: www.laconservancy.org/resources/youth-and-family-activities/city-hall-kids.

Ability (dance, voice, drama), there are no courses that will be automatically assigned to your child. Many middle schools offer visual arts and performing arts electives. These electives are also offered at all high schools as a part of A-G requirements.

Given below are some sample student schedules to illustrate what a middle school or high school schedule might look like. In the sample schedules, the “H” denotes honors class, the “H ACC” denotes an accelerated math course, and “AP” denotes an Advanced Placement course. **Sample A** shows the schedule of a 6th grade gifted student with non-accelerated math. Remember the student is still receiving a differentiated math class because the student is clustered with other gifted students during math. **Sample B** illustrates the schedule of an 8th grade student with accelerated math. **Sample C** is a high school student that is taking honors and AP courses.

Course Name
SCIENTFC DRAWG
INTRO PE B
H ENGLISH 6B
H INTEG SCIENCE 6B
CC MATH 6B
H WHG: ANC CIV B
HOMEROOM

Sample A

Course Name
H ACC CC ALG 1B
ADV ORCH MS B
H US HIST G&C B
H ENGLISH 8B
INT PE B
H INTEGR SCIENCE 8B
HOMEROOM

Sample B

Course Name
AP ENV SCI B
AP CALCULUS B
H PRIN AM DEMOCR
H WORLD LIT
AP PHY:C MEC B
SPANISH 3B
HOMEROOM

Sample C

If you believe your child is not enrolled in the appropriate courses, you should make an appointment to speak to your child’s counselor. Understanding the course options for your gifted child can also aid in helping you choose a secondary school. When considering schools, inquire about what types of honors and AP classes are offered.

Important Dates

- ◆ **April 5:** Deadline for Intellectual Assessment referrals
- ◆ **April 10:** Deadline for Visual and Performing Arts Referrals for the May Auditions/ Demonstrations
- ◆ **April 15-19:** Spring Break
- ◆ **May 17:** Deadline for Creative Ability and Leadership Ability Referrals

School Spotlight

Playa Del Rey Elementary School (Local District West)

One might not expect to hear 4th and 5th graders talking about profits, dividends, and the capital market, but Playa del Rey Elementary School’s gifted and SAS students are using these words regularly. This year, they were fortunate enough to participate in the SIFMA Foundation’s Stock Market Game, a program that helps students across America learn financial literacy. School participation is mainly at the secondary level, but Playa del Rey’s students have risen to the challenge and are leading the charge as the only public elementary school participating.



Students are given a hypothetical \$100,000 to invest in the S&P 500. They work together in small teams researching companies and products they want to invest in. Once their 15 stocks are chosen by the process of “consensus,” they hit the ground running. They check in on their investments weekly and trade (buy and sell) as often as they need to. One of Playa’s teams is currently the board leader in their division.

Playa’s 4th and 5th graders are using enriched vocabulary while learning to work collaboratively and understanding how to negotiate with team members who members have independent and unique ideas.

If your school has something to share for the “School Spotlight” section, please email Susanna Furfari, District Coordinator, at susanna.furfari@lausd.net.