

GIFTED PROGRAMS INFORMATION NIGHT



WELCOME

Please sign in:



Thank you for your interest in Avondale's gifted and talented education programming. We are so glad you're here!

Coleen Brunni, Assistant Superintendent



Woodland Elementary
Grades K-1



GATE Magnet School
Grades 2-8



Avondale High School
Grades 9-12



Empower, Innovate & Inspire at Avondale School District!

K12 Media

Empower, Innovate, Inspire!



AVONDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT



Watch on  YouTube

TODAY'S PRESENTATION



- Meet Our Team
- Avondale Mission & Vision
- What Makes Avondale Unique
- Overview of GATE & Giftedness
- Elementary vs Middle School
- Social Emotional Learning
- MSU GATE & Extension Opportunities
- Beyond GATE
 - K-1 Program
 - 9-12
- Application Process & Admissions

PROGRAM LEADERSHIP



CARLY KOZLOWSKI
WOODLAND PRINCIPAL
(K-1 PROGRAM)



ANITA STEWART
GATE PRINCIPAL
(GRADES 2-8)



ANGELA CASTALDI
GATE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
(GRADES 2-8)



DOUG WILSON
HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
(GRADES 9-12)



JENNIFER WILSON
PATHWAYS COORDINATOR
(GRADES 9-12)



MICHELLE GIERMAN
DISTRICT GIFTED EDUCATION
COACH & AI STRATEGIST
(GRADES K-12)



MISSION & VISION

The Avondale School District will cultivate innovation, foster strong relationships, and engage ALL students in real-world experiences to inspire and empower tomorrow's leaders and responsible citizens.

PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE



1 Conscientious
Citizen

2 Effective
Communicator

3 Creative
Problem Solver

4 Innovative
Thinker



5 Self-Actualized
Risk Taker

What makes Avondale unique?



- Non-traditional Experiences
- Personalized Pathways
 - Paced according to student need
- Students engaged in deeper learning
- Small group instruction
- Project-Based Learning
- Inquiry-based Learning
- Experiential Learning relevant to student interests
- Address Needs of Whole Child
- Consistent parent/teacher/student communication





A Glimpse Inside **GATE Magnet School**



Avondale's GATE Magnet School is dedicated to providing an innovative learning environment where gifted students can maximize their academic and social/emotional growth through personalized learning.

Whether your child is in 2nd grade or 8th, whether they're part of the Avondale School District or coming to us from outside the district through Schools of Choice, they'll find a home here where their education is as individual as they are.

LOCATION

GATE Magnet School
1435 W. Auburn Road
Rochester Hills, MI 48309

GRADE LEVELS

Grades 2-8



2025 & 2026 #2 Michigan Middle School & #4 Michigan Elementary School

(U.S. News & World Report)

2023 & 2024 Top Ten Best Public Schools in Michigan

(Public School Review)

2022-23 Michigan Department of Education Rewards School

(The highest 5% of schools in Michigan ranked by academic achievement.)

Avondale History

GIFTED PROGRAMS

PAST

- Group of parents approached Avondale Administration and advocated for gifted education.
- Researched & began!
- Started at Woodland Elementary in 2017
- Two 3rd/4th grade classrooms
- 31 students



NOW

- **GATE**
 - 2nd-8th grade
 - Elementary is 2nd-5th
 - Middle is 6th-8th
 - 380 students and growing
- **AHS**
 - Collaborative support of gifted students' needs
 - Accelerated Pathways Program
 - 3rd cohort of students
 - Magnet High School in early planning stages
- **Woodland**
 - K-1 program launching in Fall 2026

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE GIFTED?

1

According to National Association of Gifted Children (NAGC), "Students with gifts and talents perform-or have the capability to perform-at higher levels compared to others of the same age, experience, and environment in one or more domains".

2

They require programs and/or services that are differentiated beyond those normally provided by a regular school program in order to maximize their learning potential.



PORTRAIT OF A GIFTED LEARNER

COMPLEX REASONING

Critical Thinking
Problem Solving
Systems Thinking

CREATIVE THINKING

Open-Mindedness
Risk Taking
Innovation Skills
Divergent Thinking

AFFECTIVE PROCESSING

Interpersonal Interactions
Intrapersonal Development
Leadership Skills



GLOBAL MINDEDNESS

Awareness & Appreciation
Justice & Service-Oriented
Life-Long Learner

COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY

Self-Expression
Active Listening
Shared Understanding
Self-Advocacy

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING

Project Management
Self-Regulation
Adaptability
Conflict Resolution

HIGH ACHIEVING VS. GIFTED

High Achieving

Gifted Learner

Knows the answers	Asks the questions
Is interested	Is highly curious
Is attentive	Is intellectually engaged
Has good ideas	Has original ideas
Works hard	Performs with ease
Commits time and effort to learning	May need less time to excel
Answers questions	Responds with detail and unique perspectives
Absorbs information	Manipulates information
Copies and responds accurately	Creates new and original products
Is a top student	Is beyond his or her age peers



STRUCTURE OF THE DAY

ELEMENTARY VS. MIDDLE

GATE School Day: 8:11AM – 3:11PM

Woodland School Day: 8:32AM – 3:39PM



- Elementary (K-5th)
 - ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies & SEL



- Middle School (6th-8th)
 - 6 period day + advisory
- Middle School Opportunities
 - Classes at AHS
 - 21F

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION



**Placement/Test-Out
Assessments**
GATE ONLY!



Standards Based Instruction



**Pre-assessments to determine
level and/or readiness**



**Acceleration balanced
with depth & complexity**



SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING

- Positivity Project (P2)
 - K-8th
 - Focus on character strengths
 - Build on empathy which positively impacts others
 - e.g. teamwork, integrity, perseverance, curiosity...



ATHLETICS

All 6th–8th grade students are welcome to participate in Avondale Middle sports.



EXTENSION OPPORTUNITIES

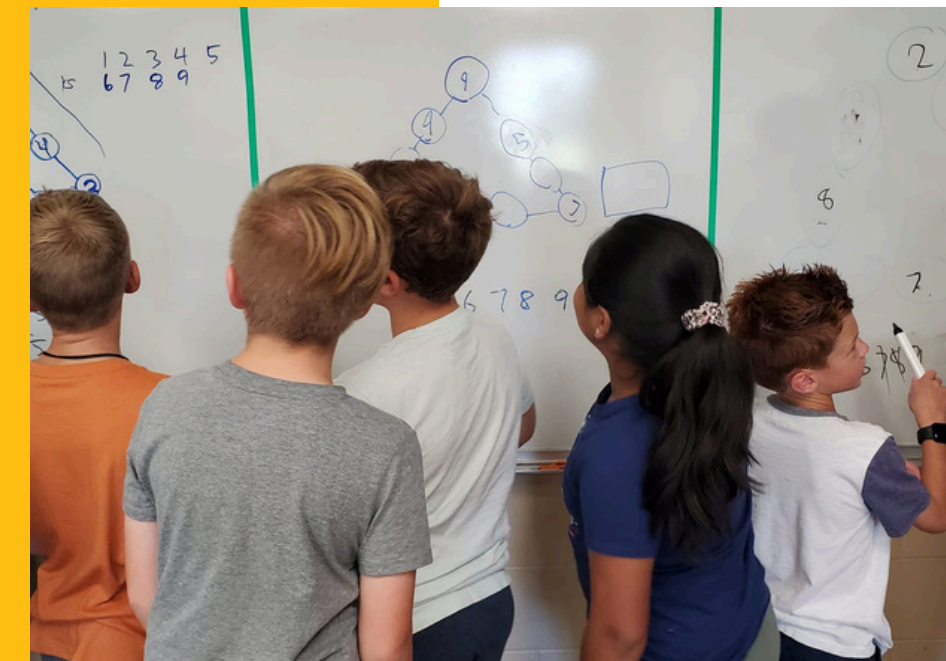
MSU GATE PROGRAM

- Susan Sheth
 - Contact: gifted@msu.edu
- Website: gifted.msu.edu

ACADEMIC YEAR PROGRAMS

Grades 5–8:

- **ISHALL (ASCEND)**
 - Intensive Studies in Humanities, Arts, Language and Literature
- **CHAMP**
 - Cooperative Highly Accelerated Mathematics Program
- Both are double accelerated so students complete 4 required high school courses in 2 years





GATE
GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION

AVONDALE GATE!

Gifted and Talented Education or GATE is a division of University Outreach and Engagement at Michigan State University. We are dedicated to promoting accelerated educational programs for students in elementary, middle, and high school.

Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

Website: gifted.msu.edu
email: gifted@msu.edu



Overview



Academic Year Programs Grades: 6-9)

(Current grade when applying)

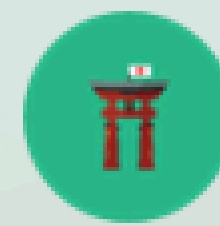


CHAMP Cooperative Highly Accelerated Mathematics Program



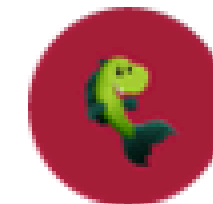
ASCEND Accelerated Study in Composition, English, and Narrative Discourse

Formally Intensive Studies in Humanities, Arts, Language and Literature (ISHALL)

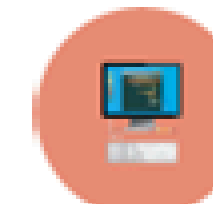


(M.A.N.G.A.) Japanese Michigan's Accelerated NihonGo for Americans

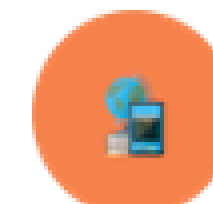
Summer Programs Grades 4-11



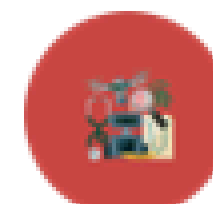
GUPPY Gifted University for Precocious and Passionate Youth



IS4GT Intensive Studies for Gifted and Talented



MST@MSU Math, Science, & Technology



MSTL Math, Science, Technology & Leadership



SPARTANS WILL. SUMMER GATE PROGRAMS

- Gifted University for Precocious
Passionate Youth (**GUPPY**) **Grades 4-6**
- Intensive Studies for Gifted and Talented (**IS4GT**)
Grades 7-11 (varies by program)
 - Pre-Law: **grades 8-11**
 - Pre-Med: **grades 7-10**
- Math, Science, & Technology (**MST@MSU**) **Grades 7-8**
- Math, Science, Technology & Leadership (**MSTL**) **Grades 9-10**

2026 DATES:

June 15-19

June 22-26 (morning GUPPY only)

July 6-10

July 13-17

Academic Year Program Details

Academic Year Programs (Current grade when applying)

CHAMP Cooperative Highly Accelerated Mathematics Program

ASCEND Accelerated Study in Composition, English, and Narrative Discourse
Formally Intensive Studies in Humanities, Arts, Language and Literature (ISHALL)

(M.A.N.G.A.) Japanese Michigan's Accelerated NihonGo for Americans

(Grades 6-9=current grade when applying)



Important information available at gifted.msu.edu/paying/costs

- ❖ Applications open in January
- ❖ May 8, 2026 (Summer deadline and first Academic Year Programs deadline)
- ❖ Cost: Tuition and application fees increase as of March 1, 2026
- ❖ Refunds/Drops
- ❖ Payments
- ❖ Financial Aid
 - ❖ Need-Based Scholarship or
 - ❖ Class materials



Questions and Answers



GATE
GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION

Do you have a
question???

E-mail us anytime at
gifted@msu.edu

FOLLOW US:

 [Facebook.com/MSUGifted](https://www.facebook.com/MSUGifted)

 [@MSUGifted](https://www.instagram.com/MSUGifted)

**GIFTED AND
TALENTED
EDUCATION**

**INFORMATION
MEETING**

February 1, 2026 | 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.



➡ RSVP ONLINE BY JANUARY 28

gifted.msu.edu



GATE
Gifted and Talented Education
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION



APPLIES TO BOTH WOODLAND & GATE

Transportation

- In-District resident students may ride the buses
- Transportation is not provided for schools of choice students
 - Many arrange carpools

Support Services

- ESL
- Learning Support Services
 - Speech/Language & Social work

Clubs

- Clubs vary by year and availability
 - e.g., Chess, Robotics, Karate, Spanish, Art, Drama

Busy Bees

- Before and after school care
 - Daily fee for AM and PM

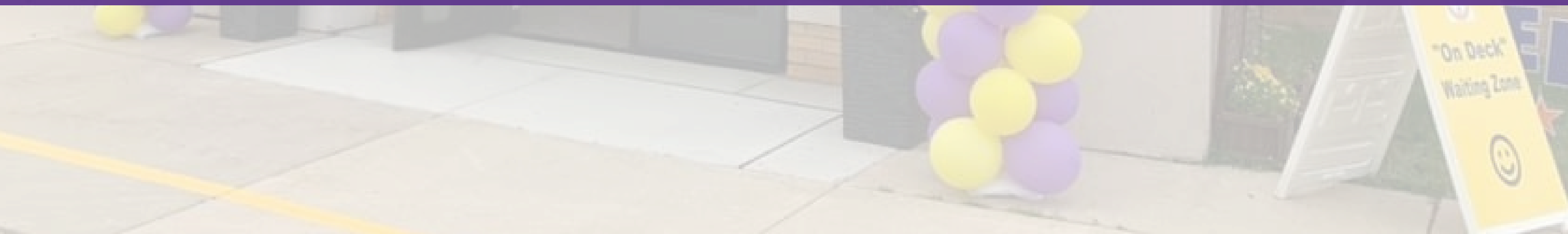


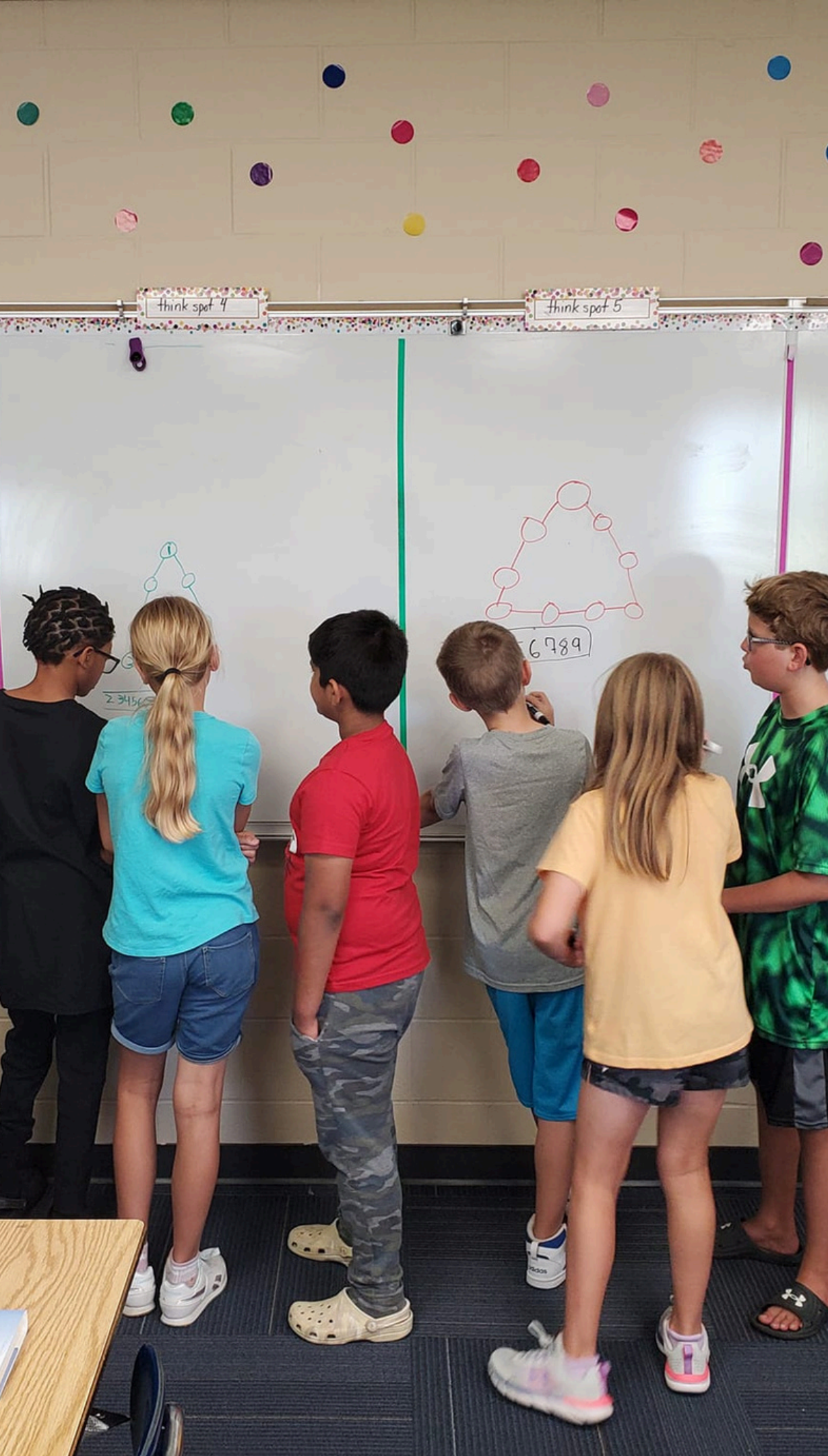
Avondale GATE

MAGNET SCHOOL

ATTENDANCE

- According to Michigan Law MCLA 380.1561, ***“Every parent or guardian in this state having control and charge of a child from the age of six to the child’s sixteenth birthday shall send that child to school for the entire school year and such attendance shall be continuous and consecutive.”***
 - **Reports:**
 - Tardies, Early Dismissal and Full Day Absences





BEYOND GATE

What happens before 2nd grade and after 8th grade?

Woodland Elementary: Grades K-1

- Gifted K-1 Companion Program
- NEW Fall 2026

Avondale High School: Grades 9-12

- Over 25 AP & Honors Courses
- Dual Enrollment & Early College
- Accelerated Pathways
- On-Campus Career Technical Education
- Specialized Gifted Program Coach & Counselor



AVONDALE

K-1 GIFTED PROGRAM

Avondale's K-1 Gifted Program serves as a companion to our existing Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program, fostering curiosity, creativity, and confidence through engaging, flexible learning and inclusive identification. Our supportive, skilled teachers help students grow academically and socially while building a strong foundation for future success.

LOCATION

Woodland Elementary
6465 Livernois Road
Troy, MI 48098

GRADE LEVELS

Grades TK – 5
K-1 GIFTED

SCHOOL SCHEDULE

8:32AM – 3:39PM



LEARN MORE:

[AVONDALESCHOOLS.ORG/K1GIFTED](https://avondaleschools.org/k1gifted)

BEYOND GATE & INTO HIGH SCHOOL



Grades 9–12

- Over 25 AP & Honors Courses
- Dual Enrollment & Early College
- Accelerated Pathways
- On-Campus Career Technical Education
- Specialized Gifted Program Coach & Counselor
- Magnet High School in Early Planning

Avondale Accelerated Pathways

- What is it?
 - Supports students who need & desire academic acceleration at high school
- Provides students with guidance through Accelerated Pathway coordinator support in course planning to facilitate academic acceleration and post secondary planning.

Who Should Consider Pathways?

- Incoming 9th grade students who have a need and desire for acceleration in their high school curriculum
- Students who are taking high school coursework in middle school
- Students who plan to Test Out or Credit Forward to accelerate their learning for advancement of curriculum
- Students who are aimed to fast-track towards postsecondary education
- Students who are focused on specific accelerated outcomes: accelerated Dual Enrollment, accelerated Early Middle College, and early graduation

Looking Ahead

- What's next?
 - District in early planning stages of Gifted Magnet High School within Avondale High School



APPLICATION PROCESS

Online Application

- In-District Resident or Schools of Choice
 - SOC applicants can apply if you live in Oakland or contiguous county.
 - Complete During Application Window
 - Basic Information
 - Parent Questionnaire
-
- Invitation for testing **(2-8 ONLY)**:
 - NWEA MAP Reading and Math
 - Computerized
 - **All** 1st graders
-
- Students interested in the NEW K-1 program will be tested using primary CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test; computerized) in person during March visit day



APPLICATION PROCESS

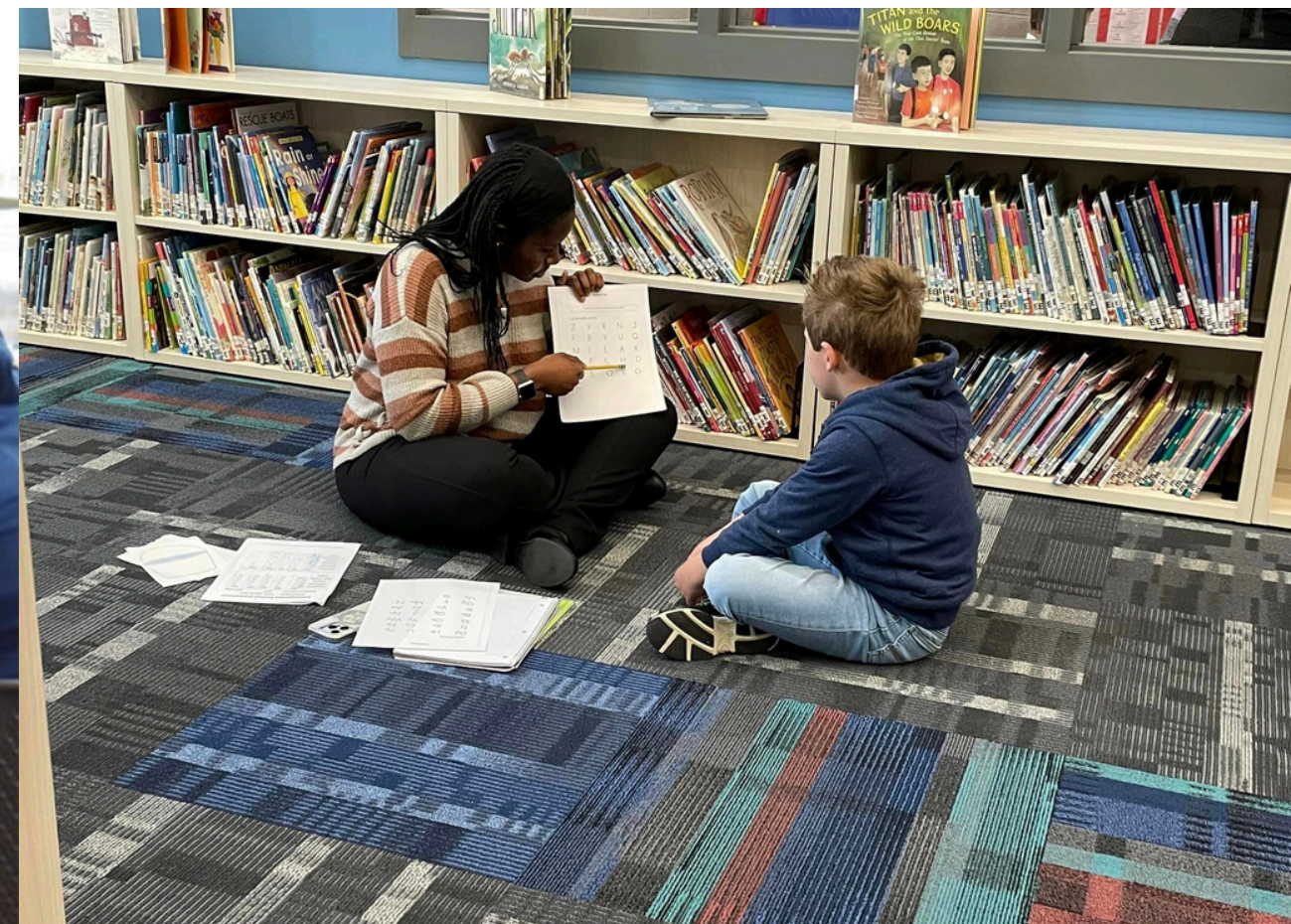
Applications or application
information will not be
accepted after deadline!

ONLINE APPLICATION – WOODLAND K/1 COMPANION PROGRAM

- Parent Survey and Teacher/Mentor Survey Completed
- If Applicable, provide: Report Card, Behavior Report, and/or Attendance Report from Current School/Program
- Option to provide IQ scores or CogAT scores

ONLINE APPLICATION – GATE 2–8 PROGRAM

- Submit Report Card
- Submit Behavior Report (2 yrs)
 - Must obtain from your child's school
 - Student Information System (SIS)
 - Letter on School's Letterhead
- Any OPTIONAL items you may wish to include





APPLICATION PROCESS

Avondale Schools reserves the right to deny access to a student who receives special services and resides outside of the Oakland Intermediate School District if mutual agreement cannot be reached with the student's home district/ISD related to responsibility for added costs.



Make sure you have **ALL** your documents before you hit submit. Emailed documents will not be accepted.



Check **ALL** calendars to make sure the testing date you select is best fit for your child and your family.



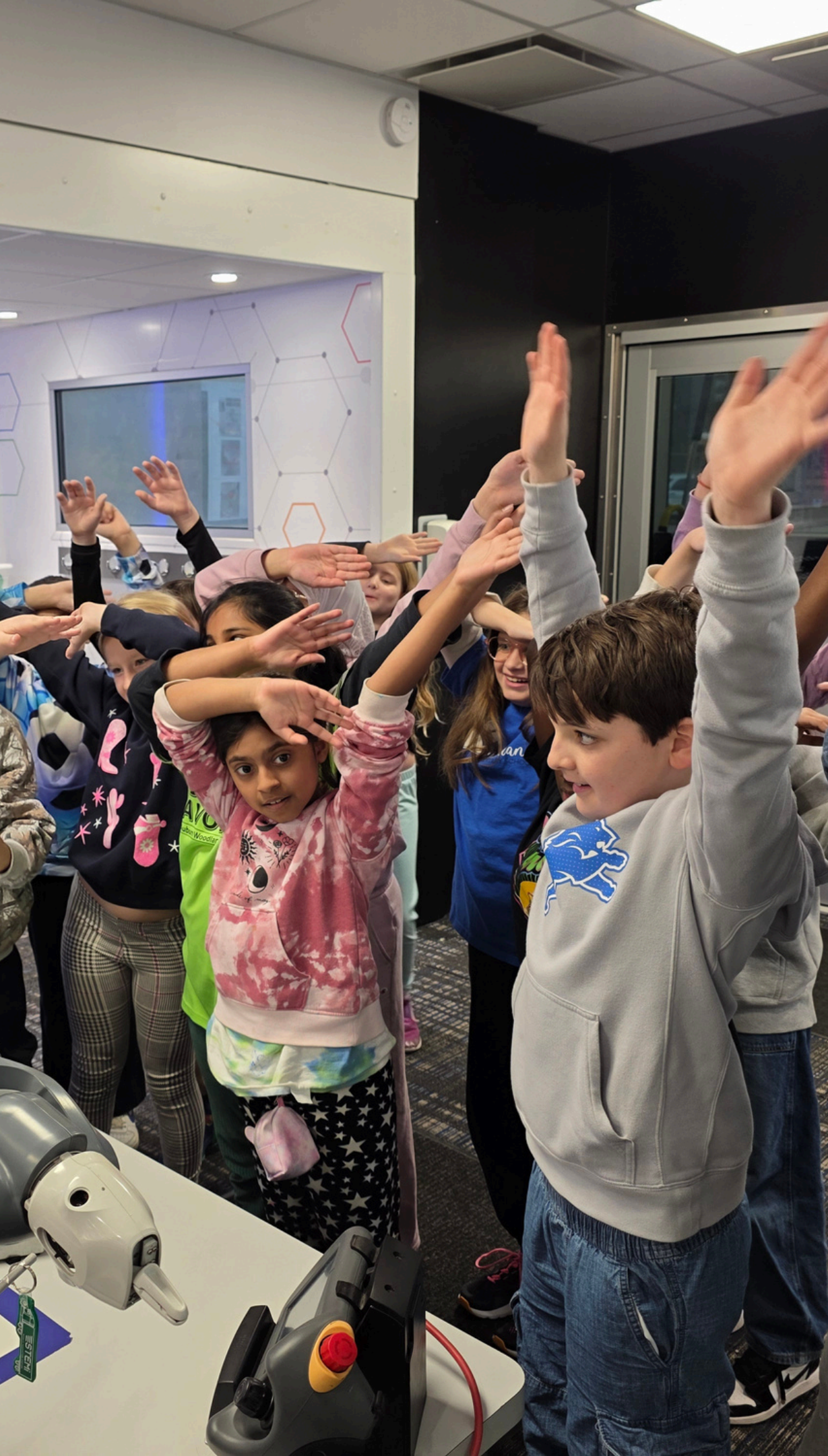
SCHOOLS OF CHOICE

Avondale School District and GATE are governed by the Schools of Choice provisions in Section 105/105c of the State School Aid Act.

- If the number of applicants exceeds the number of positions available, the district must accept eligible applicants in the following order:
 - Students who reside in the same household as students enrolled under section 105 or 105c in the immediately preceding school year, semester, or trimester.
 - Other students selected according to a random draw system, which must also be used to establish a waiting list.
- In-District Residents who meet the criteria are given first choice.
 - SOC
 - Once accepted through SOC
 - 12th grade

LEARN MORE
avondaleschools.org/SOC





ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Admissions is determined by a team of administrators and teachers

- **Rubric-based system**
- **Parent Notification of Acceptance**
 - 2nd week in March
- **Letter of Intent**
 - April
- **Enrollment**
 - May 1st

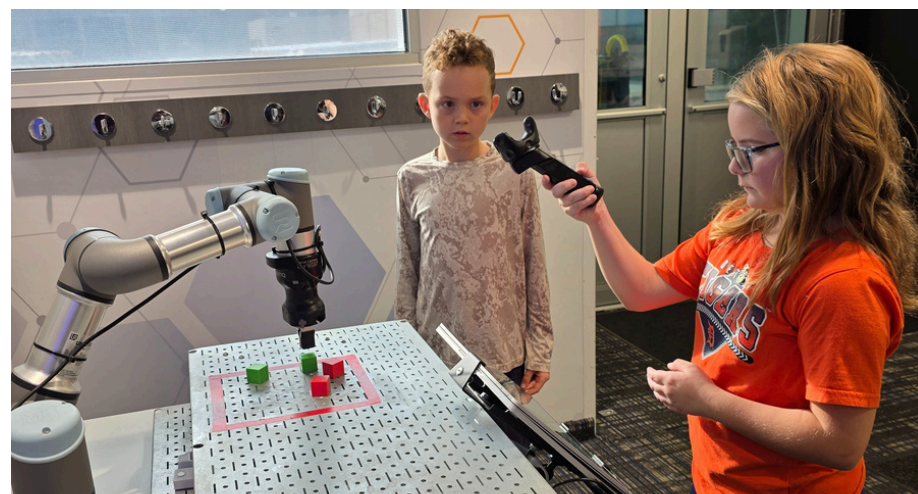
Lottery, if needed!



AN UNCOMMON EXPERIENCE



Avondale is truly
uncommon educational
experiences for your child.



Gifted students have a right
to a **free, appropriate and
rigorous education** that
stretches their skills and
thinking every day.



Please consider applying!



THANK YOU!

Any Questions?

K-1 FAQ



GATE Application FAQ



**APPLICATION WINDOW
OPENING SOON!**

www.avondaleschools.org