



Leon Sablatura Middle School
Pearland Junior High West



GT ACADEMY

Parent Information Night

Advanced Academics
Pearland ISD





STATE GOAL FOR SERVICES FOR GIFTED/TALENTED STUDENTS

Students who participate in services designed for gifted/talented students will demonstrate skills in **self-directed learning, thinking, research,** and **communication** as evidenced by the development of **innovative products and performances** that reflect individuality and creativity and are advanced in relation to students of similar age, experience, or environment.

Program Design

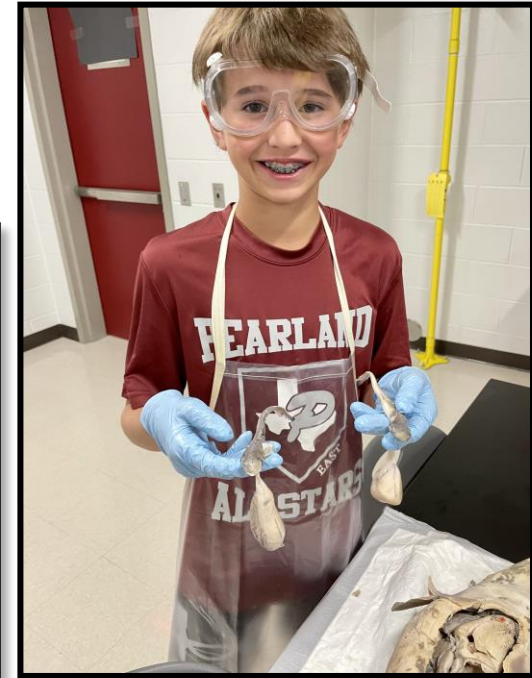
The Pearland ISD GT Academy is a full-time school within a school located at Sablatura Middle School and Pearland Junior High West designed to serve gifted students in 5th – 8th grade .



GT School within a School

The goal of the GT Academy is to provide Pearland ISD students with unique learning opportunities that **challenge** and develop the academic abilities of gifted learners alongside their **intellectual peers** while nurturing their **social and emotional needs**.

- Curriculum Compacting
- Course Acceleration
- Enrichment
- Affective Support
- Project Based Learning




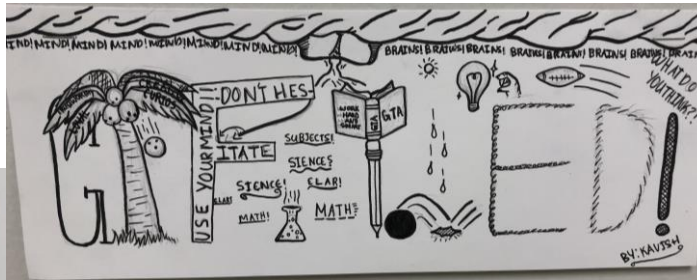
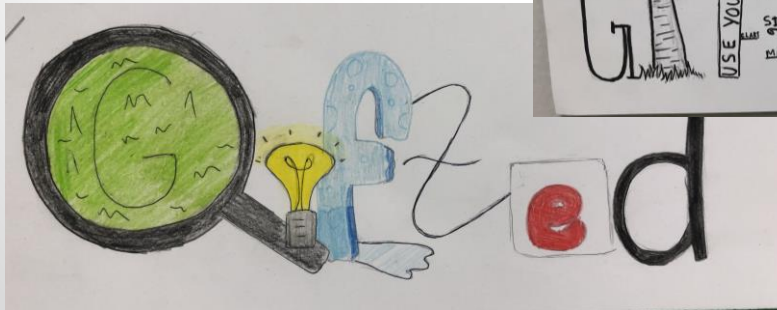
Program Eligibility

- Pearland ISD resident
- Currently enrolled Pearland ISD
- Identified gifted Pearland ISD
- 5th - 8th grade GT students



Gifted Characteristics *(just a few)*

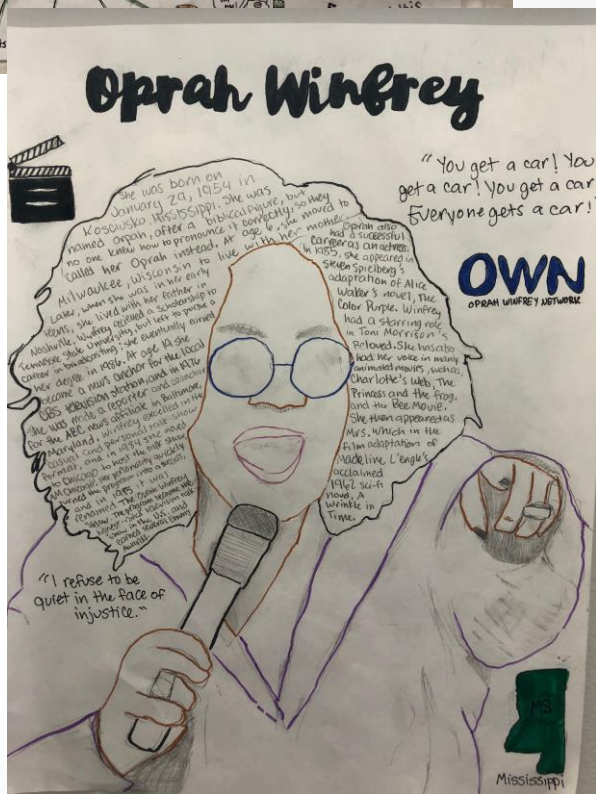
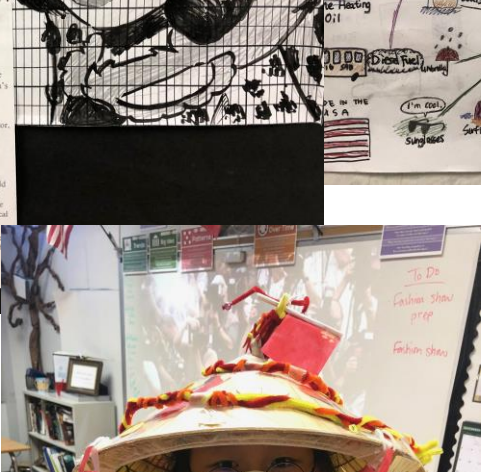
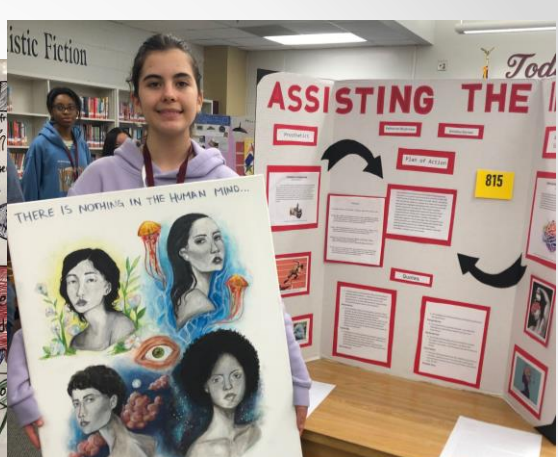
- Uses **advanced vocabulary** for age or grade level
 - Possesses a **large storehouse of information** about a variety of topics
 - Shows **quick mastery** and recall of factual information
 - Displays **curiosity** about many topics
 - Has a **passionate interest** area
 - **Sees connections** between apparently unconnected ideas and activities
 - Has a **sophisticated sense of humor**
- Can be **self-critical**; impatient with failures
 - Is **bored with routine tasks**
 - Is a **perfectionist** in one or more areas
 - Highly **sensitive** and/or empathetic
- 
- A cartoon by Charles Schulz. It depicts a character's head and shoulders. The character has a thoughtful or perhaps exasperated expression. A speech bubble or thought bubble contains the text: "I'M INTERESTED IN THINGS THAT ARE NONE OF MY BUSINESS, AND I'M BORED BY THINGS THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO KNOW."



The GT Academy Student



• Renzulli, Joseph. S.: The Three-Ring Conception of Giftedness •



Curriculum

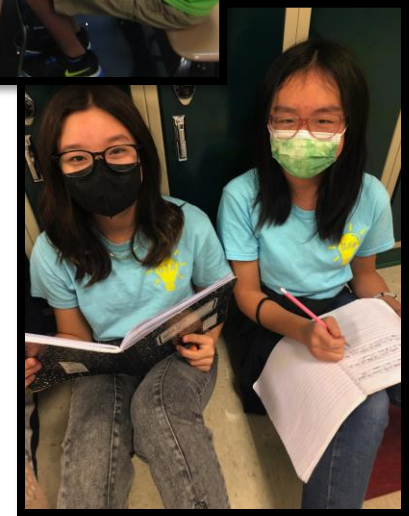
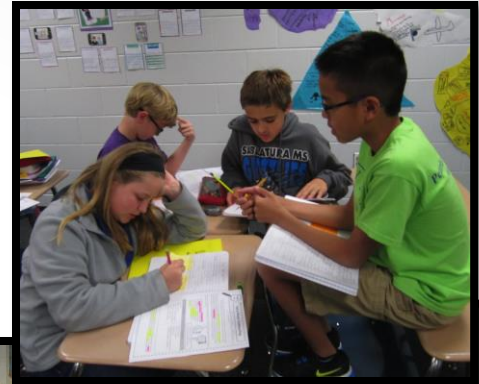
- Pearland ISD Curriculum / TEKS
 - Compacted
 - Differentiated
 - Depth & Complexity
- Mini Courses & Field Experiences
- Texas Performance Standards Projects (TPSP)
 - IIM Research Skills
- ALEKS
- Knowsys (SAT vocabulary)
- Project Based
- Technology Integration



Schedules

A Typical Day at GTA

- Math
- Science
- Social Studies
- Reading/Language Arts
- PE
- Elective (Art, Choir, Band)
- Mini Course / Soft Skills



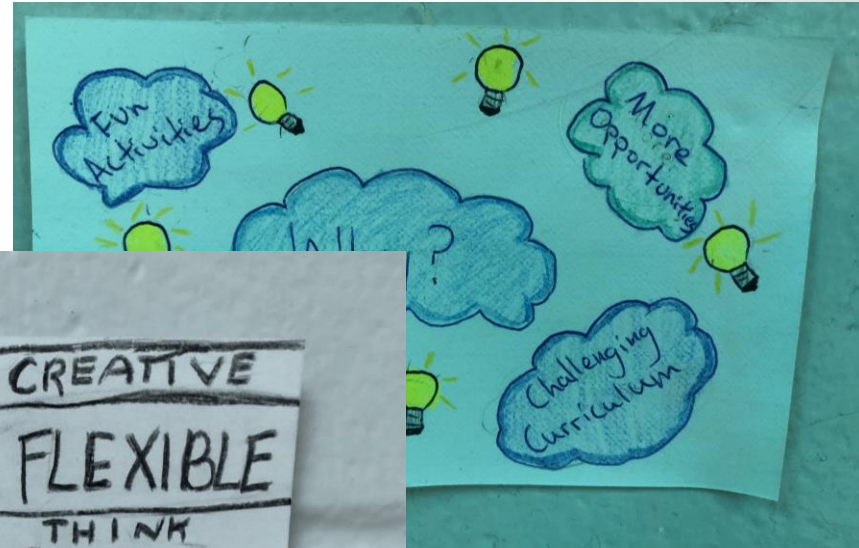
What makes the GT Academy different?



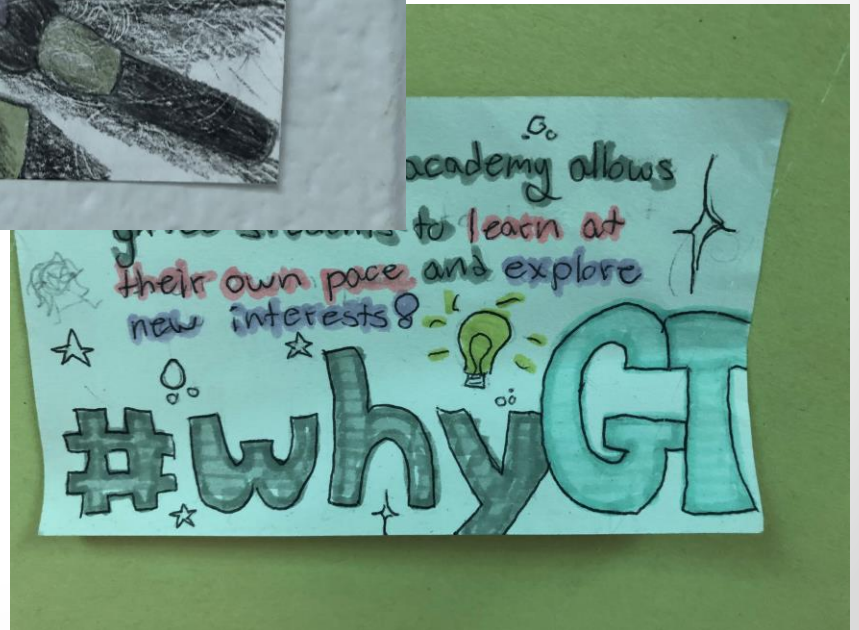
We get to be with
people who understand

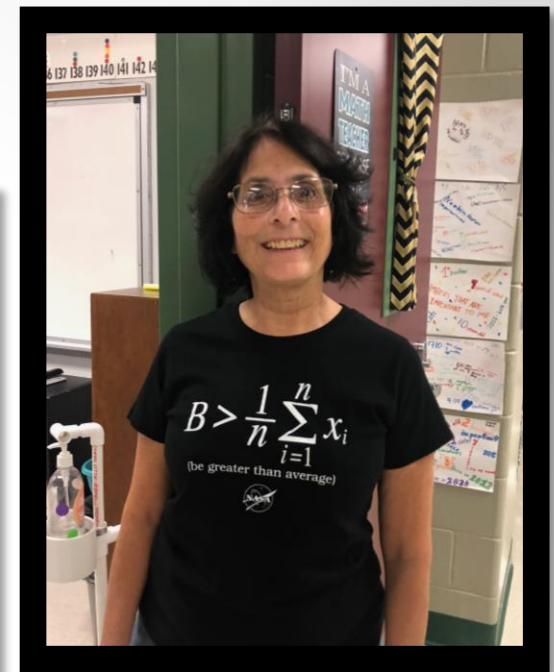
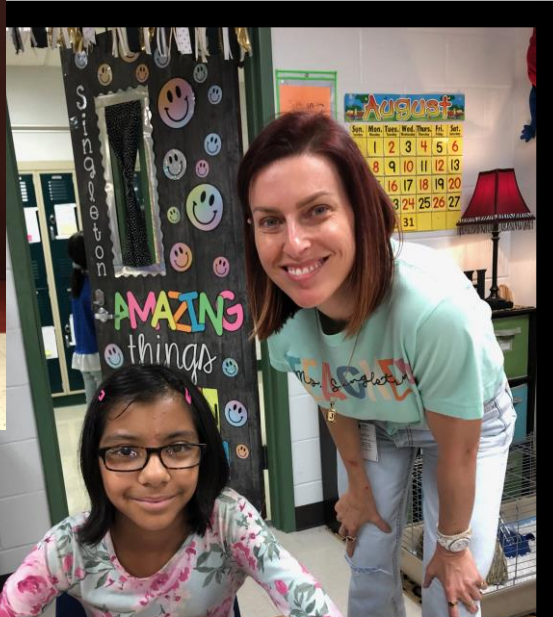
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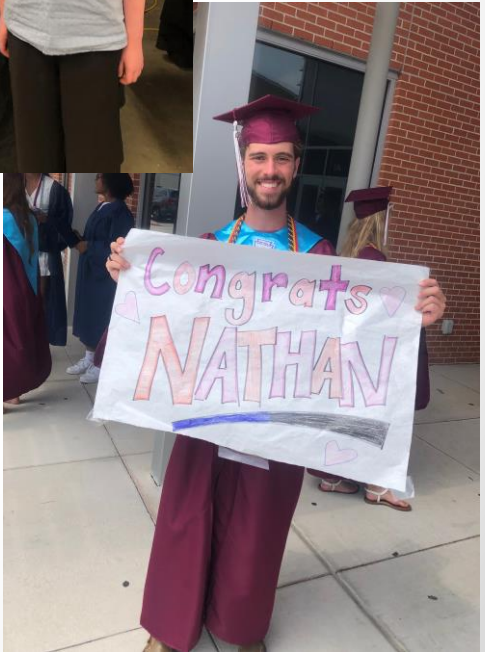
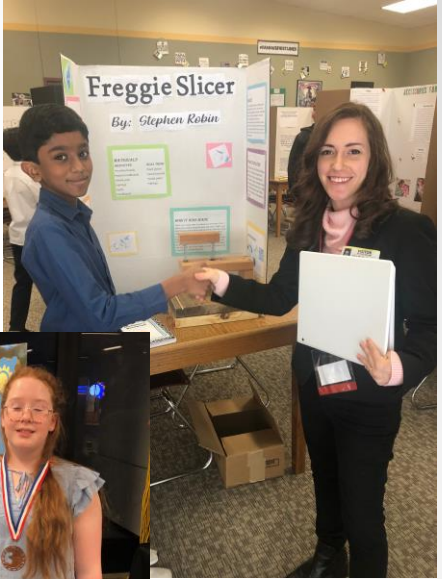
#WHY



GT education is im
you will be challenged. Every person
needs a challenge, so they can learn the
importance of WORK ETHIC and being
able to work in partners. Also,
the GTA teaches you how to complete
and write a RESEARCH PAPER. The
GTA is a place where I fit in.



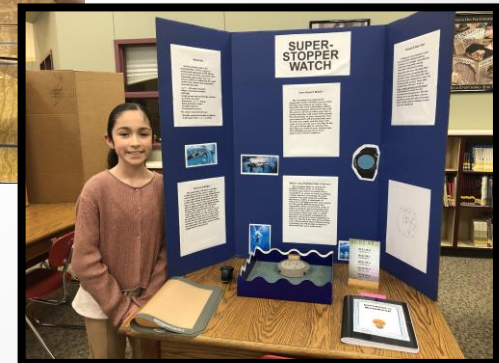




Mini Courses

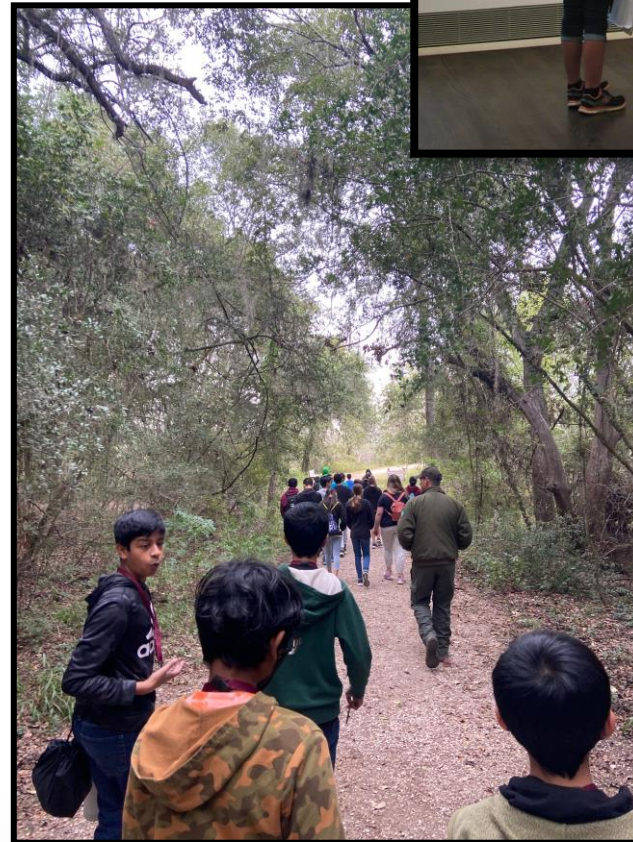
Students explore topics of interest that would not ordinarily be covered in the curriculum. Opportunities are provided to apply knowledge and creative ideas to authentic products and performances.

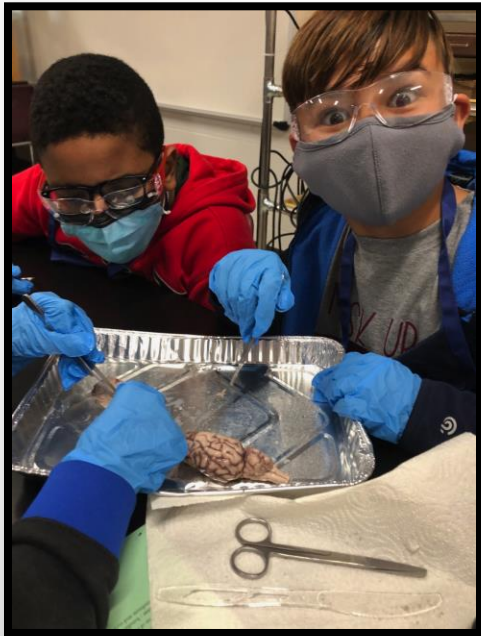
- *Marine Biology*
- *Neuroscience*
- *Sewing*
- *Horticulture*
- *Art History*
- *Mindfulness*
- *Inventions*
- *Mars Rover*
- *Genetics*



Field Experiences

Students participate in field experiences to further extend their understanding of mini course topics in authentic settings.



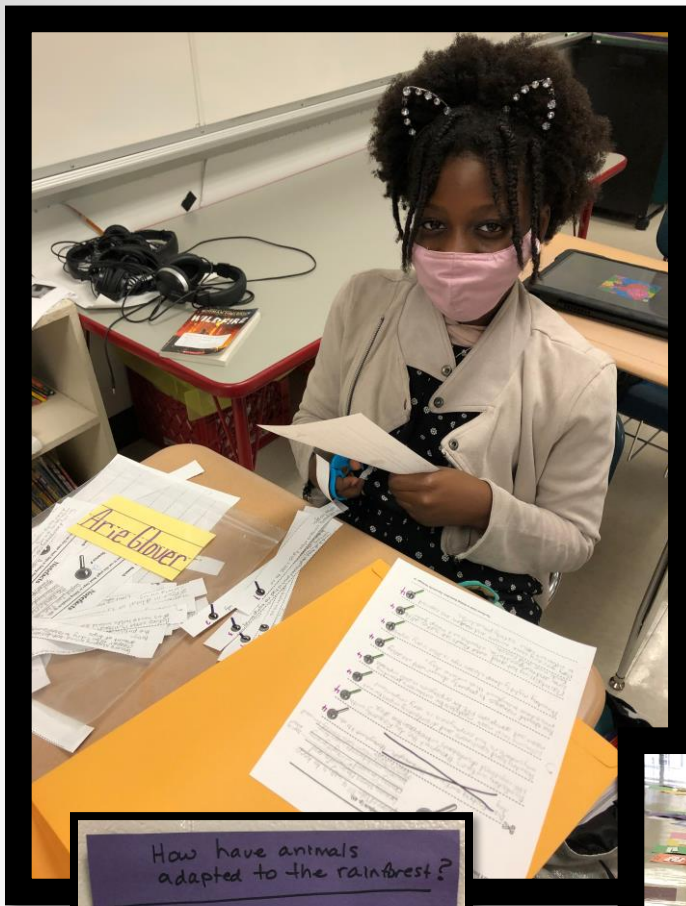


Texas Performance Standards Projects



- Gifted students create work reflecting the professional quality required by the *Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted/Talented Students*.
 - **5th Grade:** Story Quilt
 - **6th Grade:** Culture Shock
 - **7th Grade:** Passion to Action
 - **8th Grade:** Sudden Impact / What's the Diagnosis





Notefacts

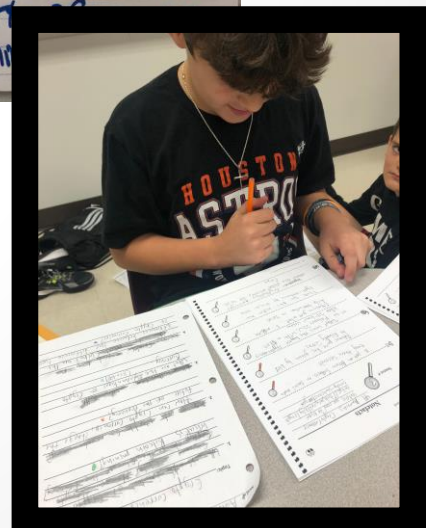
Source # 3 "Top 7 Tropical Rainforest Adaptations." BioExplorer.

Oct. 12, 2019. 10/14/2022
www.bioexplorer.net/tropical-rainforest-animal-adaptations.html

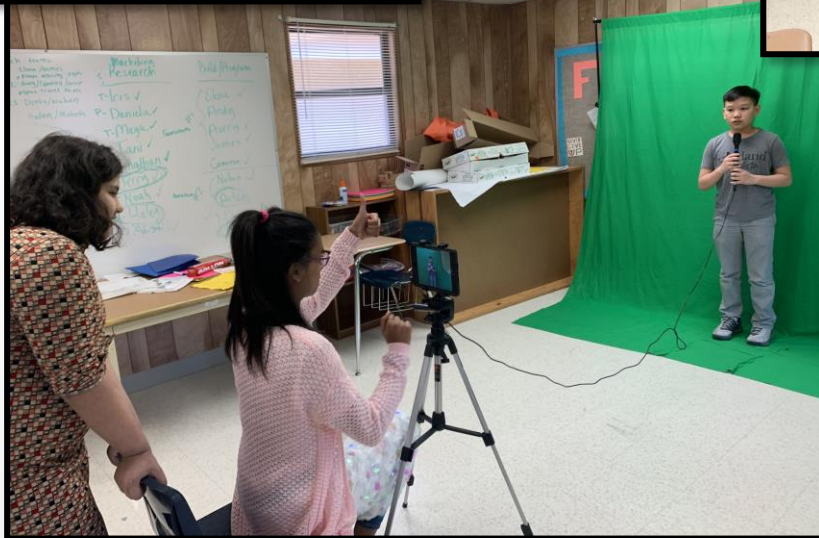
- green eyed tree frog — textured skin flaps look like trees (bark) 3
- poison dart frog — colorful to warn predators it is poisonous 3
- jaguars are smaller to move around in rainforest 3
- animals adapt to through 3
 - fruits other access 3
 small part of over 1/2 and

How have animals adapted to the rainforest?

- Camouflage helps fool predators p. 6 3
- Many animals use camouflage (hide in leaves, look like snakes & worms) p. 6 3
- Animals (mammals & stick insects) camouflage like sticks & leaves p. 6 3
- Leaf Hailed Geckos: skin like tree bark, corner will make camouflage p. 6 3
- mimicry = physical appearance and behavior p. 8 3
- Katydid → looks & behavior like shrubs (mimicry) 3
- Leafhopper moths → wing patterns look like eyes p. 5 3
- Leaf cutter ants — carry objects many times heavier than their own body p. 4 3
- Leaf cutter ants — bury leaves underneath & eat them, that they can't decompose faster p. 4 3
- many bird species visit other diet to survive p. 4 3
- You can only consume fruits that other animals can't eat p. 4 3



Technology Integration



Geometry Pathway:

Accelerated Math

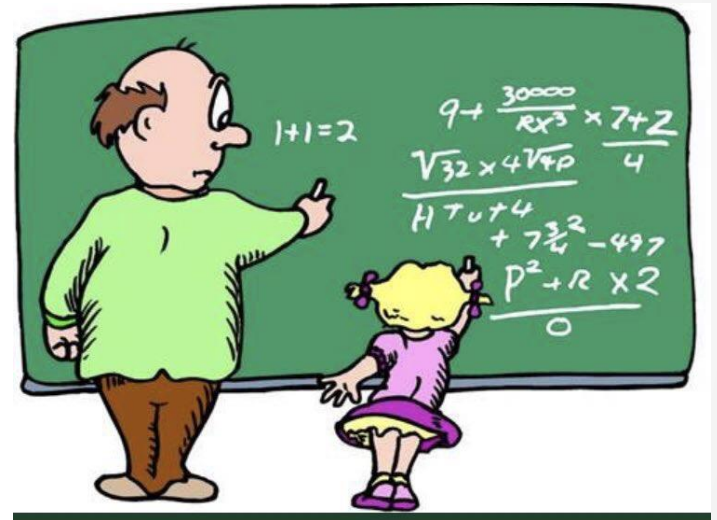
The Geometry Pathway is fast paced, rigorous, above grade level, and prepares students for AP classes and post-high school education/work. Additional testing is required to qualify for this course pathway.

5th Grade: 5th / 6th TEKS

6th Grade: 7th / 8th TEKS

7th Grade: Algebra

8th Grade: Geometry



- Testing for this accelerated math pathway will be limited to students receiving admission to the GT Academy.
- Contact Ms. Rachel Alexander, Advanced Academics Specialist, or Dr. Joseph Cahill, Director of Advanced Academics, for more information.

Soft Skills

- Gifted Characteristics
- Perfectionism
- Conflict Resolution
- Accepting Differences
- Organization
- Time Management
- Academic Integrity
- Public Speaking
- Group Dynamics



Family/Community Involvement

- Volunteer and assist with various activities, clubs, and field experiences within the GT Academy
- Guest Speakers
- Field Experience Chaperones
- GT Academy Booster Club (GTAB)
 - Committees
 - GTA Family Picnic
 - Winter Hoopla

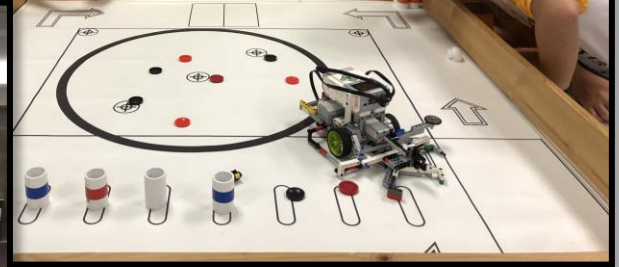




Get Involved!

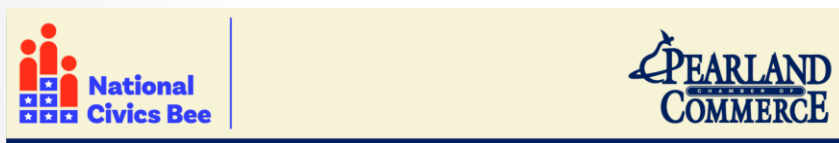
- Math Club (TMSCA)
- Robotics
- Future Problem Solvers (FPS)
- Quiz Bowl
- PAWS
- Destination ImagiNation
- Young Inventors Showcase
- Running Club
- Mars Rover
- National Jr. Honor Society
- Athletics
- Student Council
- Yearbook
- Chess
- Drone Club





Other GTA Opportunities:

- Baylor TIP
- Civics Bee
- Mars Rover @ UH
- Young Inventors' Showcase
- AMC 8 & AMC 10



**MARS
ROVER
CELEBRATION**



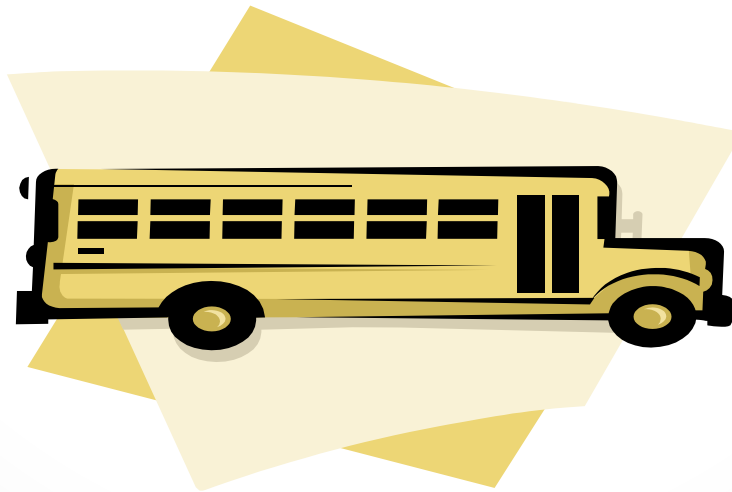
GTA Student Expectations

- Enroll in all GT Academy Advanced courses
- Participate in advanced curriculum content (ALEKS, Knowsys), mini courses, field experiences, and soft skills lessons
- Produce professional level products by participating in the Texas Performance Standards Project (TPSP)
- Maintain passing grades in all core classes each semester
- Meet grade level expectations on all STAAR tests
- Maintain excellent behavior



Transportation

Pearland ISD provides transportation for students attending the GT Academy. Student must reside within the PISD boundary and more than two miles of campus.



Application Process



- Complete GT Academy Interest Form by October 25, 2024.
 - Available online through your parent Skyward account
- Lottery: 150 students
 - Students not selected through the lottery in January will be placed on a waiting list
 - Once the 150-seat lottery is complete, students receiving admission will be contacted to participate in Geometry Pathway testing.
- Mark Your Calendar!
 - Summer GTA Boot Camp
 - GTA 5th Grade Mixer in August.

*Thank you for your interest in the GT Academy.
Please contact me if you have any questions.*



Stacy Mueller
GT Academy Specialist
muellers@pearlandisd.org