

Wildcat Gifted & Talented Program

FERGUSON & SCHAUER

JANUARY 3, 2023



Wildcat Gifted & Talented Program

Overview and Changes

Eligibility

Assessments & Rubric

Updated Calendar

Questions



Wildcat GT Program Changes

- NO 3rd grade retest
- Transfer students, *with appropriate documentation*, will be automatically accepted into the CISD GT program
- Updated assessment tools designed to balance academic knowledge and skills with gifted and talented potential
 - *Removal of TOI*
- Universal identification rubric for a streamlined process

Program Overview – Elementary (K-5)

- The **Elementary GT Program** encompasses *all four core areas* – Mathematics, Science, Reading/Language Arts and Social Studies.
- Students will be served within their primary classroom, by teachers who have been trained and certified in gifted and talented strategies.





Program Overview – Middle (6-8)

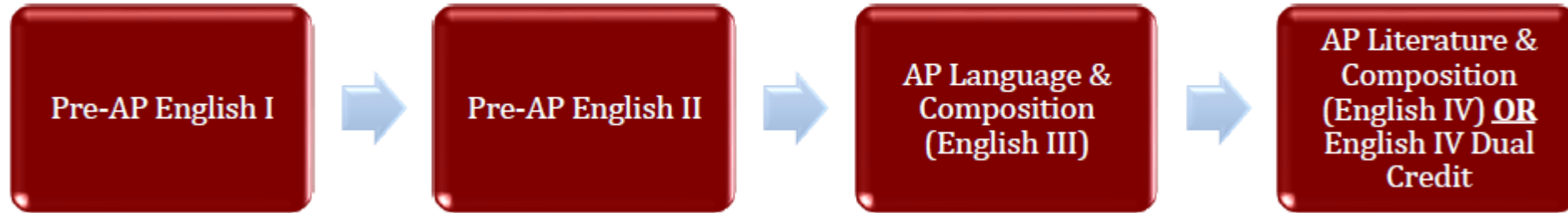
- The Wildcat GT program in middle school offers GT courses in **ELAR, Social Studies, and Science** at each grade level.
 - *These courses are designed with depth and complexity to challenge students.*
- Wildcat GT **Mathematics** will be accelerated beginning in grade six (6). In grades 6 and 7, students will master the TEKS from grades 6, 7, and 8.
 - **In grade 6** → students will complete grade level material for 6th grade and ½ of 7th grade
 - Students will take the **6th grade STAAR test**
 - **In grade 7** → students will complete grade level material for second ½ of 7th grade and all of 8th grade
 - Students will take the **8th grade STAAR test**
 - **In grade 8** → students will take Pre-AP Algebra I for high school credit
 - Students will take the **Algebra I End of Course** exam



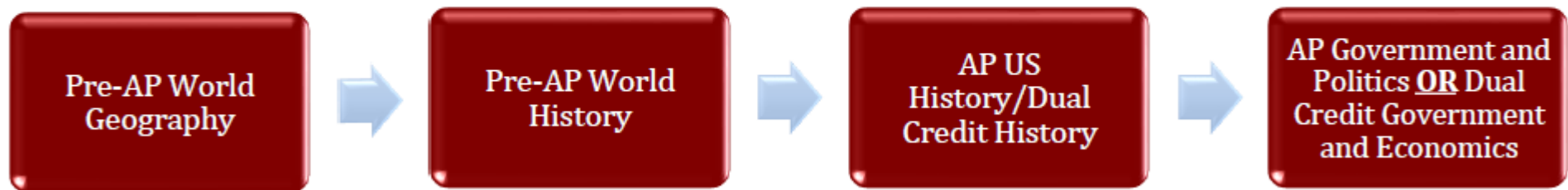
Program Overview – High School (9-12)

- *At the high school level*, students identified are served through the College Board Pre-Advanced Placement and Advanced Placement courses, as well as dual credit opportunities.
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Reading/ELA

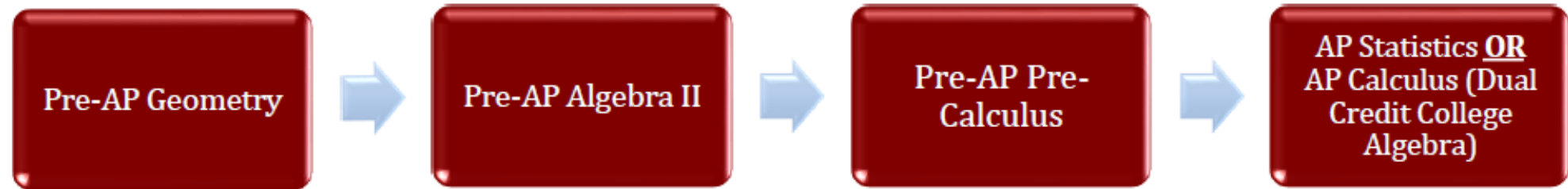


Social Studies

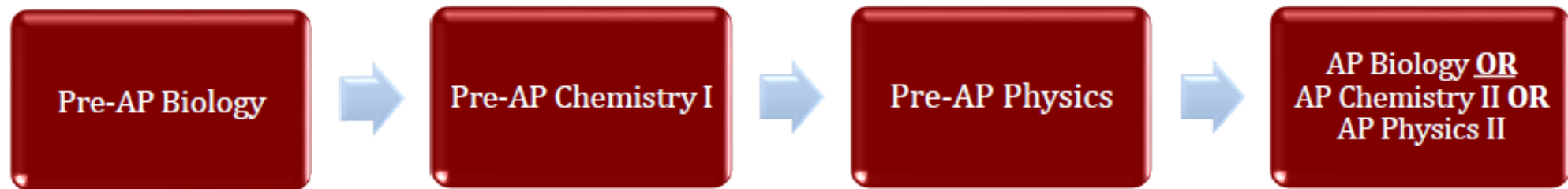


Program Overview – High School (9-12)

Mathematics



Science



Eligibility Criteria

Referral screeners will be conducted for **Kinder – 5th grade** in January.

- Letters requesting permission to test for gifted and talented will be *sent home* to students qualifying based off the screener.

Students in grades **six through eleven** can obtain a referral form from their campus counselor in January.

Note: *A parent/guardian, teacher, member of the community may make a student referral to the Wildcat Gifted and Talented Program.*





Wildcat Gifted & Talented Program
Teacher Referral Form
Kindergarten

Student: _____ Teacher: _____ Date: _____

	4	3	2	1
Math Fluency (20 problems)	19-20	17-18	15-16	14 or less
Sight Word Mastery List (50 words)	45+	40-44	35-39	34 or less
Guided Reading Level	F+	E	C or D	A or B

Check the column that best describes the student

	Almost Always 4	Often 3	Sometimes 2	Seldom 1
Learns rapidly and easily. Follows directions independently.				
Shows much knowledge in several areas beyond the usual interest of age peers.				
Has an advanced vocabulary for age or grade.				
Thirst for knowledge; seeks answers to questions; motivated to do research to find answers to questions; likes rhetorical questions; curious about ideas				
Comprehends and retains what he/she has read or heard without appearing to need much rote or drill.				
Is able to approach ideas and problems from a number of perspectives; able to find alternative ways of solving problems.				
Loves ambiguity and dislikes being given specific directions and/or parameters; comes across as highly creative/inventive				
Able to comprehend complex ideas and thoughts; able to learn advanced and more complex content.				
Shows clever, unique responses to questions and problems; often responds with humor or offers "silly" responses to questions.				
Uninhibited in expressions of opinion; sometimes radical and spirited in disagreement; tenacious				

Total Checks in Each Column				
Multiply the total checks in each column by the number at the top of the column				

GRAND TOTAL (add 4 totals above)	
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Teacher Recommendation	Yes	No	Other Comments
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☐ 49-56 Recommend ☐ 42-48 Recommend (with reservations) ☐ 41 or below Do not Recommend



Wildcat Gifted & Talented Program
Teacher Referral Form
1st - 5th grade

Student: _____ Teacher: _____ Date: _____

	4	3	2	1
ELAR Semester Grade	95+	90-94	85-89	80 or less
Social Studies Semester Grade	F	E	D	C
Science Semester Grade	F	E	D	C
Math Semester Grade	95+	90-94	85-89	80 or less

Check the column that best describes the student

	Almost Always 4	Often 3	Sometimes 2	Seldom 1
Learns rapidly and easily. Follows directions independently.				
Shows much knowledge in several areas beyond the usual interest of age peers.				
Has an advanced vocabulary for age or grade.				
Thirst for knowledge; seeks answers to questions; motivated to do research to find answers to questions; likes rhetorical questions; curious about ideas				
Comprehends and retains what he/she has read or heard without appearing to need much rote or drill.				
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Screeners

Kinder through 2 nd grade			
cogAT	NNAT	MAP – ELAR	MAP – MATH
3 rd grade through 12 th grade			
cogAT	OLSAT	MAP – ELAR	MAP - MATH



CogAT – Cognitive Abilities Screening Form (K-12)

- This assessment measures students’ verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal reasoning abilities and assists educators in determining instructional strategies.

NNAT – Naglieri Non-Verbal Ability Test (K-2)

- This assessment is used to measure non-verbal reasoning and general problem-solving abilities, *regardless of educational or cultural background*.

OLSAT – Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (3-12)

- This assessment measures reasoning skills with several different types of verbal, non-verbal, figural, and quantitative reasoning questions. It is designed to assess a child’s performance across a wide variety of reasoning skillsets.

NWEA MAP – ELAR Universal Screener (K-12)

- This assessment measures reading/language arts achievement. The student completes an online assessment that adjusts to their level of achievement to identify growth over time.

NWEA MAP – MATH Universal Screener (K-12)

- This assessment measures math achievement. The student completes an online assessment that adjusts to their level of achievement to identify growth over time.

Wildcat Gifted & Talented Program

Identification Matrix (Grades K-8)

Student _____ ID# _____ Grade _____ Date _____

Campus _____ Date of Birth _____ Ethnicity: _____

At Risk: ☐ Yes ☐ No SPED: ☐ Yes ☐ No Eco. Dis: ☐ Yes ☐ No EB: ☐ Yes ☐ No 504: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Assessment	Required Score	Student Score
NWEA ELAR – Reading	85%	
NWEA MATH – Mathematics	85%	
cogAT Screener (composite)	89%	
NNAT (Grades K-2)	89%	
OLSAT (Grades 3-8)	89%	

Identification Requirements

Students may be accepted into the Wildcat Gifted & Talented Program if they meet the required score in two of the four assessments used for that grade level.

Committee Decision

☐ Automatically accepted based on scores

☐ Not accepted into Wildcat GT at this time

Committee Signatures		
Print Name	Position	Signature
Leslee Schauer	Wildcat GT Committee Chair	
Jodi Ferguson	Curriculum Director	
	District level staff member	
	Teacher	
	Teacher	

Identification Matrix

- Standardized across the district
- Percentages are based on current research for identification of GT students, as well as historical data on student acceptance rates from CISD
- New Skyward identification – Wildcat GT (WGT)
 - Uniform for all students
 - Phase-In for students already in one of the three current programs

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

January

- 31st
 - Permission slips go home (K-8)
 - *Note:* Middle School students need to pick up slips from counselor

February

- 7th
 - Permission Slips due back (ALL grades)
- 13th – 17th
 - Testing window (CogAT, NNAT, and OLSAT)
- 28th
 - Kinder selection notification (sent home via letter)

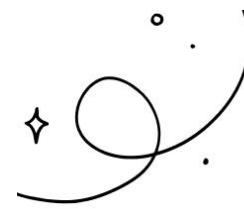
March

- 1st
 - GT Services begin for Kinder students

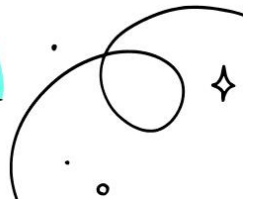
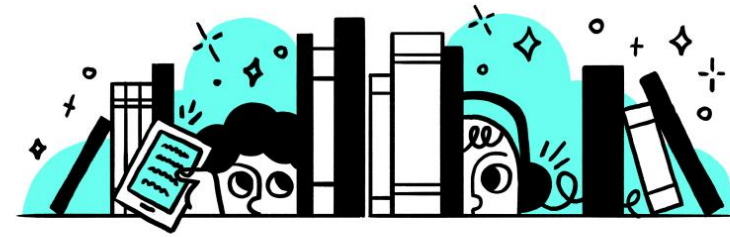
April

- 3rd
 - Notification of selection for 1st – 8th (sent home via letter)
 - *Note:* Services for grades 1st – 8th begin Fall 2023

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!



Resources



Wildcat GT Program Website

- <https://www.calallen.org/Page/299>

Wildcat Gifted and Talented Program Plan

- <https://www.calallen.org/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=16004&dataid=12813&FileName=GT%20Plan%2020-21.pdf>

TEA Gifted and Talented Website

- <https://tea.texas.gov/academics/special-student-populations/gifted-and-talented-education>

TEA Gifted & Talented State Plan (2019)

- https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/GT_State_Plan_2019_1.pdf

Discussion & Thoughts

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