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# PSJA ISD ADVANCED ACADEMICS DEPARTMENT

**2024-2025**



**PHARR-SAN JUAN-ALAMO ISD**  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



## ADVANCED ACADEMICS DEPARTMENT

Welcome to the Advanced Academic/Gifted and Talented Department Family! We are excited to have you explore the many educational opportunities our department has to offer through our active programs taking place at the elementary, middle school, and high school campuses across PSJA.

Please see below for some of the great opportunities you have to look forward to! If you have questions, contact the Advanced Academic/GT Department for further information.

## UIL ACADEMICS

UIL exists to complement the academic curriculum, designed to motivate students as they acquire higher levels of knowledge, challenge students to confront issues of importance, and to provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of specific skills. PSJA offers UIL Academics for students in grade 2-12 at all of elementary and secondary campuses through a variety of events from Art to Acting, to Mathematics!

## MIDDLE SCHOOL ROBOTICS

Robotics is offered only at a few middle school campuses district-wide and open to students in grades 6-8. Students work together to build their robot and compete against other teams throughout the year learning how to program the robot and accessorize it for the various challenges.



## SCRIPPS SPELLING BEE

The Spelling Bee program is part of the National Spelling Bee program where students compete in a spelling contest. Each year students advanced to represent PSJA ISD at the Regional Spelling Bee with a chance to advance to the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. The Scripps Spelling Bee is for students who are in grades 1 - 8 at all of our elementary and middle school campuses.

## TORNEO DE ORTOGRAFIA

The Torneo De Ortografia is a written Spanish spelling contest. Students compete against each other at the elementary and middle school levels and have the opportunity to participate in a larger Torneo at UTRGV. This contest is co-supported by the Dual Language Department.

## CHESS (GT)

Chess is offered to students in grades K - 12 at many of our PSJA ISD campuses for GT students. Students have the opportunity to compete many times throughout the year at various local contests with opportunities to advance to state and national contests.



## DESTINATION IMAGINATION (GT)

The Destination Imagination global community is united by a core belief that when students have the freedom to grow and collaborate without boundaries, their confidence explodes and the world opens up to them in new ways. PSJA offers DI for GT students in grades 1-12 and has had numerous teams advance to the state and global competitions.

## DEBATE (GT)

GT students have the opportunity to participate in a program called DebateAbleKids that emphasizes the development of critical thinking, tolerance for differing viewpoints, confidence in public speaking, and the value of teamwork. Debate is offered at select elementary campuses for students in grades 1-5.

## MATH MADNESS (GT)

Math Madness is a newer program available for out GT students where students compete online against other teams in the fall and spring. Students focus on a variety of mathematical concepts in this thrilling competition.



## ELEMENTARY ROBOTICS (GT)

Robotics for elementary students is offered to GT students at select campuses across PSJA ISD for students in grades K-12. Students compete in locally run tournaments and learn about coding throughout the various challenges.

