
Fall 2025 Horizons Parent Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, 11.18.2025

Attendees

Shane Vaul, Advanced Academics Coach
Katrina Nelson, Director of Advanced Academics
Members of the HPAC
Kate Wells, Hamilton ES

Agenda

Introductions

1. Members of the department (listed above)
2. Members of the Professional Development Training Cadre

Committee Purpose and Mission

3. Mission: Serve the CFISD community as a resource to offer a forum for dialogue and dissemination of information regarding issues of interest for parents/guardians of students identified as gifted and talented.

GT student representation in Cypress-Fairbanks ISD

4. Every campus has an active GT program
5. GT enrollment increased in the 24/25 school year, anticipating a net increase of GT identified students of 300 for the current school year

Horizon services offered to teachers

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6. Teachers with GT students required to attain 30 hours of Professional Development training
 - a. 6 hours required in Curriculum and Instruction
 - b. 6 hours required in Nature and Needs
 - c. 6 hours required in Identification and Assessment
 - d. In-district GT professional development topped 19,000 hours from summer 2024 to present
 7. Teachers with GT students required to attain 6 hours of update training yearly
 8. Members of the Professional Development Training Cadre offered a wide range of training opportunities in summer of 2024, fall 2024, and spring 2025. Plans for summer 2024 offerings being developed
 - a. 18 courses offered in summer 2025
 - b. 14 courses offered in fall 2025
 - c. Spring 2026 course offerings being discussed

Horizon services offered to students

9. GT students grouped with peers
10. Kindergarten students received GT services via pullout model
11. Students grades 1-12 follow an inclusion model
12. Highlight of programs offered to GT students
 - a. Horizons Showcase (both in-person and virtual)
 - b. Da Vinci Day
 - c. Destination Imagination
 - d. Spelling Bee
 - e. Edtech Expo
 - f. You Be the Chemist
13. Elementary GT Enrichment Activities
 - a. For grades 1-5
 - b. Imaginative activities that encompass core content and creativeness
 - c. 5-6 'Phases' allowing students to work at their own pace
 - d. Spring activities being created for rollout in January

Tools for parents

14. Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented
15. National Association for Gifted Children
16. CFISD Advanced Academics website
17. Presentation by Kate Wells on the myths of being GT

Conclusion

18. Appreciation of support for HPAC members



19. Contact information for further inquiries