FBISD

INSPIRE • EQUIP • IMAGINE

GIFTED AND TALENTED

QUARTERLY REPORT ON PROGRAMMING AND PLANNING

April 15, 2026

QUARTER 1 - JANUARY-FEBRUARY-MARCH







IN THIS ISSUE

Programming Updates

- Gifted and Talented Middle School Academy
- Gifted and Talented Learning Plans
- Gifted and Talented Mentorship Program

Pilot Updates

- Innovation Hour
- Innovation Lab

Outreach Updates

- Gifted and Talented Parent Advisory Committee (GTPAC)
- Internal and External Communications

Administrative Updates

- Gifted and Talented Identification
- Professional Learning

PROGRAMMING UPDATES

Gifted and Talented Middle School Academy -- March was an exciting and eventful month for the Gifted and Talented Academy at Quail Valley Middle School. On March 9, GTA7 students hosted more than 300 fifth graders from several feeder elementary schools at the annual **Be the Change Expo**. After researching real-world issues of social injustice, students created interactive exhibits to teach younger peers how they can make a difference—making it an inspiring day for all involved. GTA7 students also traveled to San Antonio for their annual **"Texas Journeys"** trip. Highlights included visits to the San José Mission and the Alamo, practicing Spanish at El Mercado, a Go Rio riverboat tour, and a stop at the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, where students explored aquatic ecosystems. Of course, no trip was complete without a few stops at Buc-ee's. On March 24, GTA6 students presented over 185 **Imagine the Change** TPSP projects during a full-day, on-campus field experience. Their presentations reflected a year of learning, growth, and a shared commitment to making a positive impact. Meanwhile, the academy reviewed more than 300 applications for next year's incoming class. As of April 7, 197 students have committed, with 52 students on the waitlist. The final roster is expected by April 13.

Gifted and Talented Learning Plan -- In spite of many technical challenges with Skyward Q, we have made great progress with GT Learning Plans. We have a 72% District completion rate so far (92% elementary, and 58% secondary). These individualized plans include two goals--an academic and an affective goal. These goals help our GT students focus on areas of growth and are essential in ensuring that each gifted student receives the support, enrichment, and challenges they need to thrive.

Gifted and Talented Mentorship Program -- The first quarter of 2026 is a very busy time for GT Mentorship. The students in the Class of 2026 cohort began their on-site hours with their mentors, spending five hours per week at their various mentorship locations. Students are moving along the progression scale, going from observers to actually contributing to projects and completing tasks in the workplace. In addition, a total of 108 applications were received for the Class of 2027. Interviews were conducted on campuses during the school day so each student had equal access to be interviewed for a potential invitation to the 2027 cohort. Notifications went out on Friday, March 27, and 28 students representing 11 high schools were invited to enroll for the 2026-2027 school year.

PILOT UPDATES

Innovation Hour -- During the first quarter, the Department visited Innovation Hour campuses to evaluate the implementation of the Innovation Hour program. During the walks, the teams had the opportunity to interact with students and ask them about their advanced projects. It has been exciting to see students' passions shine through a wide variety of topics and issues. The Department will continue to support students and teachers to ensure that they are empowered to effectively communicate their passions through their advanced projects.

Elementary Campuses:
Aldridge, Arizona Fleming, Austin Parkway, Bhuchar, *Barrington Place, Brazos Bend, *Colony Bend, Cornerstone, Commonwealth, Dulles, Goodman, *Highlands, Holley, Juan Seguin, Lantern Lane, Lexington Creek, Madden, Malala, Meadows, Neill, Oakland, Palmer, Patterson, Rosa Parks, Scanlan Oaks, *Sienna Crossing, Settlers Way Sullivan, Walker Station

Secondary Campuses:
Bowie Middle School, Garcia Middle School, *Travis High School

*denotes new campuses for the 2025-2026 school year.

Innovation Lab -- As part of our ongoing efforts to expand these unique learning opportunities, the Innovation Lab course will be offered at Hodges Bend Middle School during the 2026–27 school year. GT students in grades 6–8 will have the opportunity to engage in advanced, hands-on learning experiences that foster creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills through interdisciplinary, project-based investigations.

OUTREACH UPDATES

Gifted and Talented Parent Advisory Committee (GTPAC) -- On February 21, 2026, our gifted students and families participated in a meaningful service opportunity with the Lunches of Love organization at the Fort Bend Administration Annex. Together, GT families decorated over 1,000 lunch bags, which were donated to support children in our community. Each bag not only helps provide a meal but also shares messages of encouragement and kindness.

The event was extremely well received, and it was inspiring to see FBISD GT students demonstrate leadership, creativity, and a strong commitment to service. Opportunities like this empower students to extend their learning beyond the classroom while applying empathy, collaboration, and civic responsibility in authentic ways.

Thank you to all who contributed to making this event such a success!

Internal Communications -- GT Spark!, the monthly newsletter for FBISD teachers, continues to be distributed directly to teachers' email inboxes. This communication includes depth and complexity resources, information about professional development offerings, and reminders for campus GT project showcase deadlines. Teachers are also given access to the monthly parent newsletter so they see all communications coming from the district GT Department.

External Communications -- Our monthly newsletter to parents, Celebrating Gifted, continues to be our primary means of communication, averaging 11,135 monthly views this quarter. Based on analytics, parents have most often interacted with information about scholarship opportunities, GT Summer Camp offerings, and family-friendly, budget-friendly local events of interest. January and February had very high traffic pointing toward the GT Academy, as this was the recruiting and application time for rising 6th graders.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Gifted and Talented Identification - During the first quarter of 2026, the Gifted and Talented (GT) identification process included several key milestones. The spring referral window opened and resulted in 18 new referrals, and for the first time, both fall and spring identification processes were conducted concurrently in mid-February while the GT Academy application window was open. Students referred during the spring window were scheduled to participate in the February 7 administration of the CogAT, which assesses cognitive abilities across verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal areas. Throughout the quarter, the Department focused on completing all required components from the fall referral cycle, including obtaining parent consent or declines for all 123 back referrals from the Universal Screener and ensuring all teacher inventories were completed through ongoing follow up with campuses. Identification decisions resulted in 789 students being identified for GT services, and a total of 199 appeals were processed across both fall and spring referral cycles. The appeals process was completed during this quarter, with the majority of decisions upheld and a small number resulting in reversals or additional testing to ensure a comprehensive review. In addition, the Department conducted a pilot of the Naglieri General Ability Tests on February 21 with students in grades K, 2, and 5 who were identified through fall screening to evaluate testing procedures and administration. Student assessment and services continue to be implemented in alignment with district procedures and remain in compliance with the Texas State Plan.

Professional Learning - The Department is excited to announce a new professional development (PD) tracking system will be piloted during the 2026–27 school year. This system will enable the Department to more effectively monitor and track PD hours for teachers who serve GT students.