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GIFTED AND TALENTED

QUARTERLY REPORT ON PROGRAMMING AND PLANNING

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QUARTER 4 - OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER







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PROGRAMMING UPDATES

Gifted and Talented Middle School Academy -- This quarter, GTA students have participated in multiple field experiences both on-campus and off-campus. GTA eighth grade students traveled to the Ocean Star Education Center (Oil Rig Museum) and Galveston beach, as well as traveled to MECA and the Eternal Gandhi Museum. GTA seventh graders traveled to The Bryan Museum in Galveston as part of their studies of Texas history, and GTA sixth grade students visited and toured St. Thomas University and the Chapel of St. Basil as well as Congregation Beth Israel. All of the GTA students are currently researching their "Imagine the Change" projects for TPSP.

Gifted and Talented Learning Plan -- GT Learning Plan forms are now available in Skyward Q, so teachers are working on entering them there. Due to several technical challenges with the migration to Skyward Q and the lack of prepopulated fields in the electronic form, this process is taking teachers much longer than anticipated. Currently, 65% of GT Learning Plans have been entered into Skyward Q. Completion reports are provided monthly to COGS, along with a table of individual campus completion rates. Campuses will continue to enter GT Learning Plans for the Spring Semester.

Gifted and Talented Mentorship Program -- All of the students in the Class of 2026 are placed in their mentorships for the spring. Mentor partners added to the mentorship program since last quarter are **Children At Risk**, **Dhanani Private Equity Group**, **Baylor College of Medicine Research**, **LEAF Engineers**, **Outlook Eye and Laser Center**, **Fort Bend Rainbow Room**, **Planned Community Developers**, and the **City of Sugar Land**. Students will begin their on-site, 5-hour-per-week mentorship the week of January 12, and will continue through the week of April 20, 2026. They will all make the District proud!

PILOT UPDATES

Innovation Hour -- This year, Innovation Hour has added five new campuses to Innovation Hour. As the GT Department continues to expand the program. The focus continues to be on building the instructional capacity of our teachers and campus leaders. The GT Department has conducted campus professional development and instructional walks to monitor the implementation of Innovation Hour across the district. Throughout the spring semester, these walks will continue to ensure we provide tailored support to all our Innovation Hour campuses.

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 -- The Innovation Lab course continues to thrive at Sartartia Middle School. During the fall, the GT Department met with Cambridge University to observe the program and discuss support strategies. The Department is currently developing the curriculum to facilitate the expansion of this course across the district.

OUTREACH UPDATES

Gifted and Talented Parent Advisory Committee (GTPAC) -- All 2025–26 GT PAC Executive Board positions have been filled. The newly elected Executive Board members are:

· **President:** Kim Hibsch
· **President-Elect**: Amit Bansal
· **Secretary**: Steve Joshy
· **Parliamentarian:** Jade Ramirez

Additionally, the GT PAC hosted its annual **GT Family Game Day** on October 25. The event was a success, with **56 participants** in attendance.

Internal Communications -- The **GT teacher newsletter,** GT Spark! has been published monthly, with an average readership of about 385 teachers. Each issue features a resource of the month, spotlights on great teaching with the integration of depth and complexity, and information on GT programming across the District.

External Communications -- Our monthly smore newsletter continues to be published widely on multiple platforms - parent email, the GT website, campus GT webpages, and in the GT Communications courses in Schoology. GT students on our Title I campuses are also given a printed flyer with a QR code to take home to their family in the event parents in those communities do not have regular digital access. Average readership remains steady at about 11,500 views. Parents continue to show the most interest in local happenings such as the “Pumpkin Palooza” in October, the Pecan Harvest Festival and Missouri City’s “Gobble on the Green” in November. December’s favorite was the Houston Museum of Natural Science Sugar Land’s interactive “Block Party” exhibit.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Gifted and Talented Identification - During last quarter of 2025, the Gifted and Talented identification process involved the administration of the CogAT cognitive abilities test in late October/early November. The test included Non-Verbal, Verbal, and Quantitative subtests, and was conducted during school hours. While parents completed a GT Behavior Observation Form in the GT application as part of the referral process. Teachers completed the School Rating Scales in the GT application for referred students throughout the fourth quarter of 2025. All of these data will be used next quarter to consider referred students' need for gifted services in FBISD. Parents will receive written notification of placement decisions in February 2026. The notification date will be available on the GT Fall Identification webpage: https://www.fortbendisd.com/Page/124587

Professional Learning - This fall, 35 additional teachers deepened their instructional practice through professional learning focused on the Dimensions of Depth and Complexity, supporting more intentional and rigorous instruction for gifted learners. One additional training session is scheduled for the spring to extend and reinforce this work.
In alignment with Texas State Plan requirements, 20 teachers completed the required 30-hour GT Foundation Training, ensuring campuses continue to build and maintain a strong base of educators prepared to identify and serve gifted students. Ongoing annual update training opportunities will continue to be offered to support sustained instructional growth and program fidelity.

In addition to offering fall professional learning, the GT Department continued its focus on monitoring program quality through **GT Programmatic Walkthroughs**. During the fall semester, a total of 205 classroom visits were conducted across elementary, middle, and high school campuses, including 81 elementary classroom visits across 23 campuses, 54 middle school visits, and 70 high school visits.
Programmatic walkthroughs provide the Department with direct insight into GT service delivery, instructional practices, and campus-level implementation of district expectations. Walkthrough data is used to identify strengths, monitor consistency across campuses, and inform targeted support, coaching conversations, and future professional learning priorities. The department's goal is to conduct walkthroughs at every campus, and classroom visits will continue throughout the next two quarters to support comprehensive monitoring and continuous improvement across the district.