FBISD

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GIFTED AND TALENTED

QUARTERLY REPORT ON PROGRAMMING AND PLANNING

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PROGRAMMING UPDATES

Gifted and Talented Middle School Academy -- The Gifted and Talented Academy (GTA) has begun the school year with students engaged in rigorous, concept-based learning experiences across grades 6–8. Conceptual lenses – **Foundations** (Grade 6), **Influences** (Grade 7), and **Innovations** (Grade 8) – guide interdisciplinary learning and authentic application.

- **Grade 6** – Foundations: Students investigated the foundations of human culture and tradition through field experiences at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Chung Mei Buddhist Temple, and the Islamic Da'wah Center.
- **Grade 7** – Influences: Students have been scheduled to explore the influences shaping Texas culture and history through an October field experience at The Bryan Museum and the historic East End in Galveston, incorporating map-based exploration and creative connections.
- **Grade 8** – Innovations: Students launched the year-long "Manifest the Change" learning challenge, researching community issues and developing original outreach service projects.
- **Student Leadership**: GTA seventh- and eighth-grade students and alumni served as ambassadors at approximately 40 elementary school open houses across the district. Students shared information about GTA programming and application opportunities with GT-identified elementary students and families.

Additional leadership and community engagement opportunities will continue throughout the school year.

Gifted and Talented Learning Plan -- Gifted and Talented (GT) Learning Plans help students in grades 1–12 set, monitor, and achieve meaningful goals. Each student develops two goals: an academic goal focused on learning and growth in their area of strength, and an affective goal focused on personal development, such as building perseverance, managing perfectionism, or strengthening collaboration skills.

To support this work, the GT Department provided teachers with a goal-setting template and a timeline for entering goals into Skyward. In September, students partnered with their teachers to draft their goals, and teachers began entering them into Skyward. Throughout the year, students will revisit their goals to reflect on progress and celebrate growth.

PROGRAMMING UPDATES (CONT'D)

Gifted and Talented Mentorship Program -- The GT Mentorship Class of 2027 is off to a strong start! The students have been attending twice-weekly evening seminars to sharpen their professional skills, getting them prepared to interview with a potential mentor and begin on-site mentorship in the spring semester. We are happy to welcome back previous mentors for this cohort, including the **City of Sugar Land**, **Dhanani Private Equity Group**, **Houston Methodist Research Institute**, **Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital**, and **Memorial Hermann Sugar Land Hospital**.

PILOT UPDATES

Innovation Hour -- We're thrilled to announce that two more campuses are joining Innovation Hour for 2027, expanding our network to 33 schools! To set up our new teams for success, we've provided comprehensive onboarding, training, and resources for incoming teachers and administrators.
Some of our new campuses have already hit the ground running by visiting established Innovation Hour classrooms during instructional walks. To keep this momentum going, the GT Department is coordinating more visits to support both new and returning schools throughout the year.

Elementary Campuses			
Alridge	Bhuchar	Barrington Place	Brazos Bend
Colony Bend	Cornerstone	Commonwealth	Goodman
Highlands	Holley	Juan Sequin	Lantern Lane
*Leonetti	Lexington Creek	Madden	Malala
Meadows	Neill	Oakland	Palmer
Patterson	*Pecan Grove	Rosa Parks	Scanlan Oaks
Sienna Crossing	Settlers Way	Sullivan	Walker Station
Secondary Campuses			
Bowie Middle School		Garcia Middle School	
Sartartia Middle School – Cambridge Innovation Lab		Travis High School	

***2026-2027 Innovation Hour Campuses**

Innovation Lab -- The Innovation Lab GT-specific elective course is off to an exciting start at **Hodges Bend Middle School** and **Sartartia Middle School**. During the 2026–27 school year, GT students in grades 6–8 are engaging in advanced, hands-on learning experiences designed to foster creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.
Students have begun their first project-based challenge, where they are exploring real-world questions through interdisciplinary investigations. As they work through the challenge, students are encouraged to collaborate, think creatively, analyze information, and develop solutions to complex problems.
This first challenge sets the stage for a year of meaningful inquiry, innovation, and opportunities for students to apply their learning in authentic ways.

OUTREACH UPDATES

Gifted and Talented Parent Advisory Committee (GTPAC) -- The GT PAC is currently recruiting parents to serve as representatives for the 2026–27 school year. We are excited to have parent representatives from 36 campusesacross the district. The recruitment window will remain open through September 30.
The GT PAC also hosted its first meeting of the 2026–27 school year, with 30 parents in attendance. The meeting provided an opportunity to welcome new members, establish committee expectations, clarify roles and responsibilities, and prepare parents for meaningful engagement throughout the school year.

Internal Communications -- GT Spark!, the monthly newsletter for FBISD teachers, issued its first edition for the 2026-27 school year in September. The recurring articles in this monthly publication exist to keep teachers informed about professional development opportunites, provide current happenings in GT programming, and share the communications we have had with our parents and families.

External Communications -- Our monthly newsletter to parents, Celebrating Gifted, continues to be our primary means of communication, and its first edition for the 2026-27 school year was issued on September 1. We will continue our practice of tracking metrics each month to ensure we are meeting the needs of our GT community.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Gifted and Talented Identification - The Gifted and Talented identification and referral process began the first day of school and ended on September 30, 2026. Parents, guardians, teachers, and counselors were able to submit referrals through the GT Online Referral App, available on the GT webpage. During this window, the GT Department received 3,644 referrals. During the next quarter, referred students will be evaluated (both quantitatively and qualitatively) for consideration for the need for GT services. Currently results are scheduled to be published in February.

Professional Learning - We are excited to announce the launch of the new **GT Professional Development Dashboard** designed to streamline the monitoring and documentation of teachers' GT foundation training and update hours. The dashboard allows campus and district staff to access accurate and up-to-date professional development records, helping ensure compliance with state requirements while improving communication and support for teachers serving GT students.

On July 20, more than 500 Fort Bend ISD educators gathered for our inaugural **IgnitED GT Conference**. Built to give teachers practical tools for supporting advanced learners, the event featured 70 presenters and 40 interactive sessions led by FBISD staff alongside key community partners, including Rice University, Houston City College, UH-Clear Lake, and Asia Society Texas.

The flexible schedule allowed GT teachers to choose sessions tailored to their classroom needs, giving them actionable strategies to keep Gifted and Talented students challenged throughout the year.

Overall feedback was exceptionally positive, with participants highlighting the wide range of topics available. Conference surveys produced a Net Promoter Score of 45, showing strong attendee satisfaction and a high likelihood that teachers would recommend the event to their peers.