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Mary Austin Holley Elementary  
Gifted Services  
September 17, 2025

## Meet our GT Teachers (Elementary)

**1st Grade – Mrs. Losure**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – Mr. Corazzato**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Ms. Yousef**

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Ms. Stoglin**

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Mr. Sterling**



# FBISD Gifted and Talented (GT) Areas Served

Students can be served in:

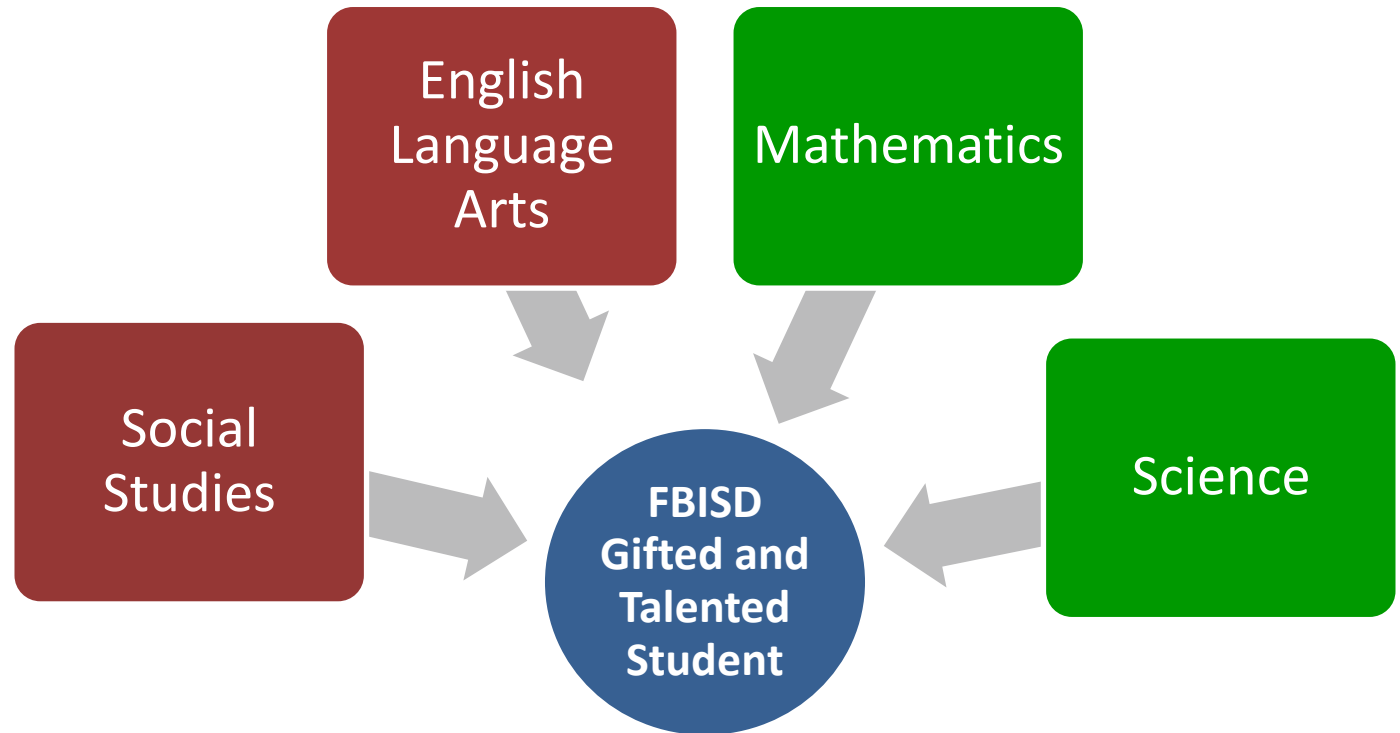
- ELA/Social Studies

**OR**

- Math/Science

**OR**

- All (4) areas



## Differentiation is...

“... a teacher’s response to a *gifted* learner’s needs.”  
(Carol Ann Tomlinson)

“... customizing instruction so every **gifted learner** experiences continuous learning.” (Bertie Kingore)

## How do we Differentiate?

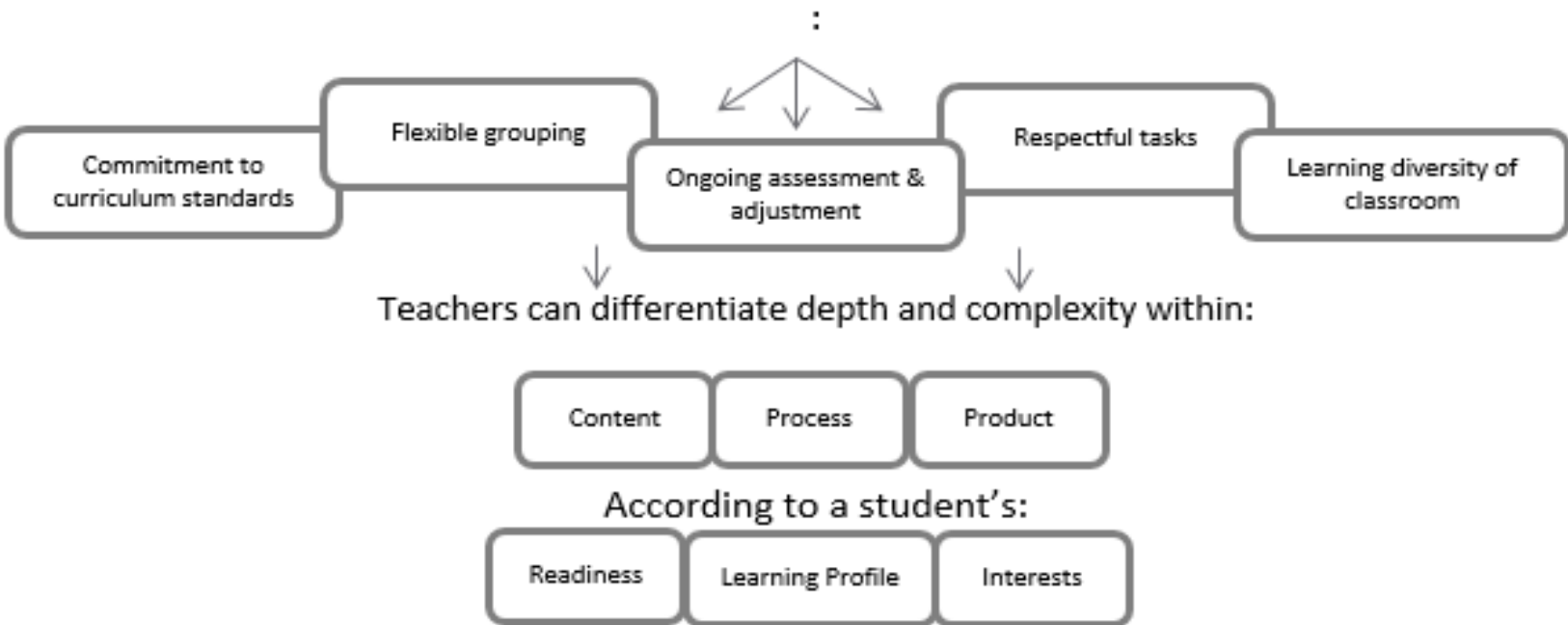
2P's	2 C's	2 F's
Pre-assessment	Choice	Feedback
Perky Pace	Challenge	Flexibility

Gentry, M. (2014). Total School Cluster Grouping and Differentiation: A Comprehensive Research Plan for Raising Student Achievement and Improving Teacher Practices (pp 100 – 105)

# How do we Differentiate?

Differentiated Instruction for Gifted & Talented

Is a teacher's response to learner's needs by using general principles of differentiation such as




# GT Services for Elementary Students includes ...

## Elementary (K-5)

- ❑ **Cluster Grouping** with differentiated instruction in core content areas (ELA, SS, Math, Science)






# Why Vistas?

Developing Verbal Intelligence Through Vistas

# Vistas Talent Pool

- Title 1 Campuses
- Identify students who show advanced academic potential
- Develop verbal intelligence through language-rich classrooms

- Nurture potential in historically underrepresented populations (EB, economically disadvantaged, African American and Hispanic students)
- Enable students to reach their full potential intellectually
- Increase representation of diverse students in AAC & GT programs

Title I campuses

The Vistas Talent Pool Program serves students in grades 1-5

2024-2025 FBISD Total Enrollment	Total Number GT	GT Percentage of Population
79,663	5,494	6.9%

Underrepresentation in FBISD Gifted & Talented (GT) and Advanced Academics (AAC) programs

2024-2025	FBISD Percentage of TOTAL Population	FBISD Percentage of GT Population
African American	28%	8.2%
Hispanic	27%	8.8%
Economically Disadvantaged	48%	13.3%

Students with gifts and talents: "come from all racial, ethnic, and cultural populations, as well as economic strata."

~National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC)

All students selected for the Vistas Talent Pool are provided:

- Vistas Talent Pool services through ELA/Reading class
- Vistas students in grades 1– 5 are cluster grouped with GT-trained ELA teachers
  - One Vistas Talent Pool class per grade level (if bilingual campus, then one bilingual and one monolingual Vistas class)
- Completion of an advanced project is required
  - Texas Performance Standards Project (TPSP) or Innovation Hour is highly encouraged
  - Campus showcase of projects



GT & Vistas students have opportunities to work together as a group, work with other students, and work independently.



GT & Vistas students are placed together for instruction in the areas of GT identification.



Teachers are trained to adapt curriculum and instruction for their GT & Vistas learners.



# Referral and Identification Process

## All students in Kindergarten and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade are evaluated for GT and the Vistas Talent Pool services

- Vistas Data Collected
  - Kinder-MAP testing
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade—Universal Screener (CogAT) in October
  - Teacher Observations (Kinder and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade)
- Parents notified in late April/early May

### FBISD Vistas Talent Pool Selection Process

#### Kindergarten

**1 Quantitative Evidence**  
MAP Achievement/Growth at or above 70<sup>th</sup> percentile (reading fluency, reading or math).  
Data gathered by GT Office.

**2 Qualitative Evidence**  
Feedback on FBISD Vistas Teacher Observation Questionnaire supports Vistas placement.

**3 Campus Meeting**  
Kinder teachers, school counselor, and Elementary GT Program Manager meet to discuss and determine Vistas placements.

#### 2nd Grade

**1 Quantitative Evidence**  
Universal Screener: CogAT score at or above 70<sup>th</sup> percentile (non-verbal, verbal or quantitative).  
Data gathered by GT Office.

**2 Qualitative Evidence**  
Feedback on FBISD Vistas Teacher Observation Questionnaire supports Vistas placement.

**3 Campus Meeting**  
2nd grade teachers, school counselor, and Elementary GT Program Manager meet to discuss and determine Vistas placements.

## Fall

- Aug 12-September 30, 2025
- Students currently enrolled in FBISD

## Spring

- January 8-31, 2026
- Students who enroll in FBISD after the Fall window closes

## Quantitative Measures

- *CogAT* (Nonverbal Assessment) - measures a student's reasoning abilities using visuals/pictures.
- *CogAT* (Verbal Assessment) - measures verbal aptitude, word knowledge and concepts, facility with language, verbal reasoning, and analogies.
- *CogAT* (Quantitative Assessment) - measures mathematical reasoning and problem solving, numerical sequences and patterns, manipulation of mathematical concepts.



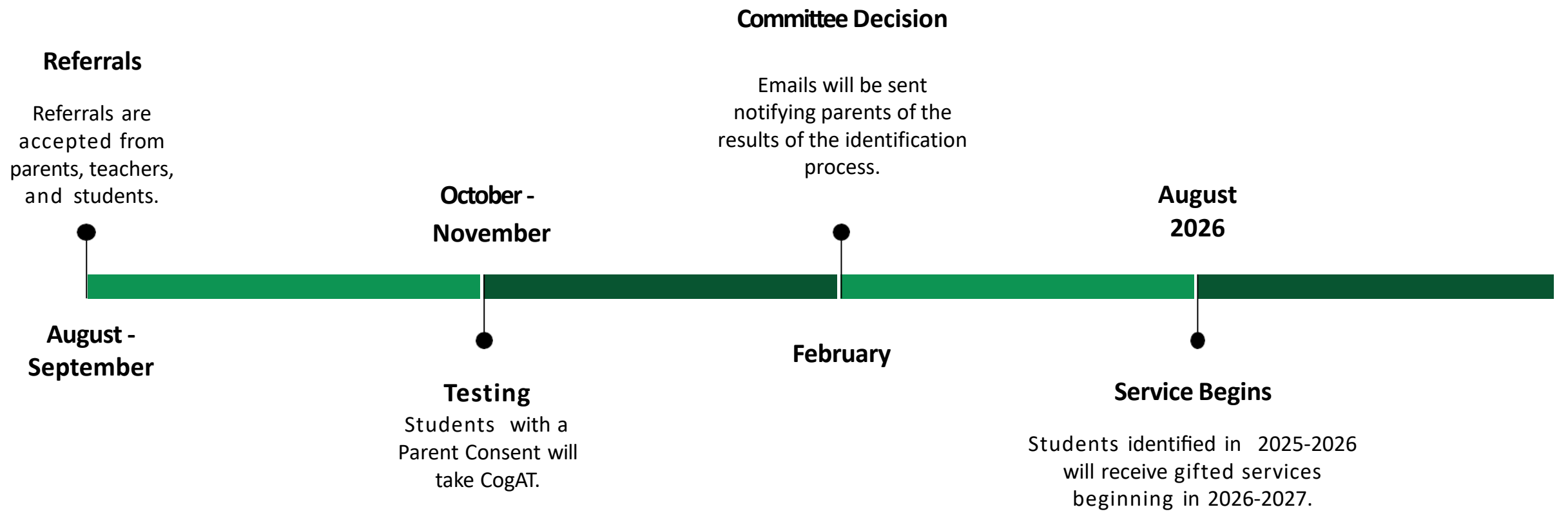
# GT Assessment



**Qualitative Measures**—input from those who know the student

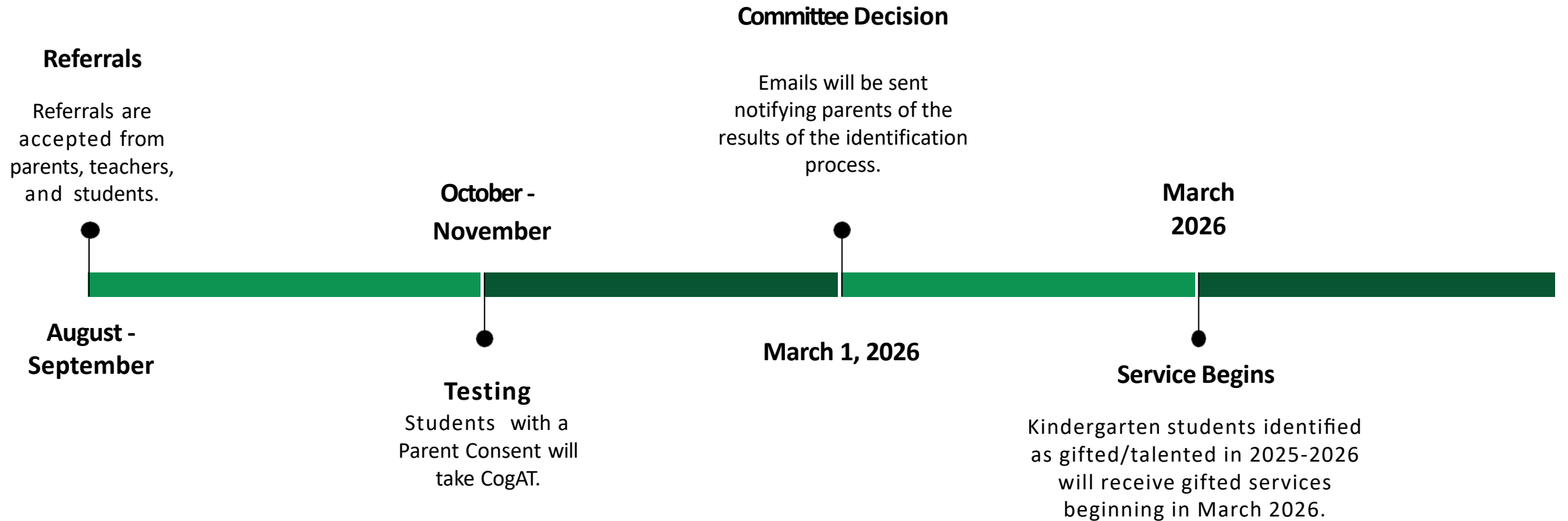
- Parent Inventory
- Teacher Inventory

# GT Identification Timeline—Fall Referrals (Grades 1-11)



# GT Identification Timeline—Fall Kindergarten

## Referrals Only

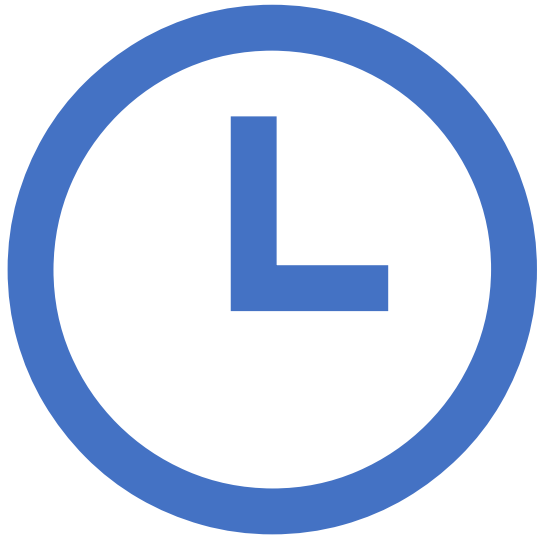


# GT Referral Deadline September 30<sup>th</sup>

[www.fortbendisd.com/gifted](http://www.fortbendisd.com/gifted)



# GT Initiatives



Innovation Hour

# Innovation Hour

Innovation Hour provides GT students with an opportunity to hone their social and communication skills while exploring a topic that they are curious and/or passionate about while in the school setting.

Innovation Hour is an in-school enrichment learning experience for students in \_\_ grade.



# GT Learning Plan

# GT Learning Plan

The GT Learning Plan (GTLP) is a written record of gifted and talented programming utilized with each gifted child. and provides opportunities for students to develop academic and affective (social and emotional) goals.

The GTLP provides opportunities for students to develop academic and affective (social and emotional) goals that are monitored by the teacher and student.

# Gifted and Talented Learning Plan: SMART Goals

- SMART goals describe the specific and measurable programming emphasis for annual learning and growth
- The areas selected as priorities for SMART goals are monitored through ongoing assessment.
- SMART Goals are linked to specific instructional strategies.
- Planning guide for making instructional decisions about materials, programming options and assessments for gifted students based upon strengths, interests, and social-emotional needs.

# GTLP Template 2025-2026

## GT Learning Plan Goals

Example Goal:

I will read 20 minutes every night  
by the end of the semester  
so that I can finish 5 chapter books  
I will know I am successful when I have  
recorded 5 books in my reading log

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### Academic Goal

I will \_\_\_\_\_ (what you will do)

by \_\_\_\_\_ (when you will finish)

so that I can \_\_\_\_\_ (why it's important)

I will know I am successful when \_\_\_\_\_ (how will you measure it).

### Affective Goal

I will \_\_\_\_\_ (what you will do)

by \_\_\_\_\_ (when you will finish)

so that I can \_\_\_\_\_ (why it's important)

I will know I am successful when \_\_\_\_\_ (how will you measure it).

PARENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

# Goal Setting Timeline

- **August 26-September 19**
  - GTLP Goal Development and Initial Conference window
- **September 22-30**
  - Elementary GTLP Goals Draft Due
- **September 22-30**
  - Secondary GTLP Goals Draft Due
    - GTLP goals may be the same or an extension of campus goals
- **October 1-3:**
  - Parent Goal review/input: A GTLP collaboration/discussion opportunity
- **October 6-9** Elementary and Secondary (grades 1-12) GTLP finalized with Parent Signature Due
  - Parents digital signature submitted through the Family Access Parent Portal in Skyward
- **October 9**
  - **GT Learning Plan Signing Day (tentative)**



# Additional Information

# Acceleration Options in Fort Bend ISD

- Curriculum Compacting
- Partial Acceleration, by Content
- Self-Paced Instruction
- Credit by Exam
- Advanced Placement
- Dual Credit
- Collegiate Enrichment Courses



Visit [www.fortbendisd.com/gifted](http://www.fortbendisd.com/gifted)  
for the full presentation on **Acceleration Options in FBISD**

# GT Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

## **Who is the PAC?**

The Gifted and Talented Parent Advisory Committee is comprised of parents in Fort Bend ISD who support the GT program offered by Fort Bend ISD. The PAC is a committed group of parents who provide feedback related to Gifted and Talented programming.

## **How do I volunteer?**

Complete the PAC Interest Form today. Each campus is allowed up to three parents to serve on the PAC.

[2025-2026 GT PAC Interest Form](#)




Parent Liaison serves between the GT PAC & school community

Provide feedback to the GT PAC committee

Attends four scheduled meetings (in-person)

Host events designed for GT families



# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

## **If my child does not qualify for GT services or the Vistas Talent Pool, can they be referred again?**

- Yes, your child can be referred for GT evaluation on an annual (yearly) basis until the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Vistas Talent Pool selections are made in kindergarten and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade for the following year.

## **My child is already identified as GT in all areas. Can they be referred for re-testing?**

- Referrals are not accepted for students who have been identified for GT services in all areas.

**My child is already identified for GT services in one area.  
Can they be referred for re-evaluation?**

- Students currently identified for GT services in one area may not be referred for add additional areas. Once a student is identified for GT services, no additional evaluation will be available.

## How does FBISD service Gifted Learners?

- GT services are provided in the core subject areas: English Language Arts, social studies, math, and science.
- Students are cluster grouped with GT-Trained teachers.
- GT Learning Plans for each student are completed to support student growth.
- FBISD teachers also provide curricular compacting, lesson differentiation, and participation in projects aligned to the Texas Performance Standards Project (TPSP).

# Questions?



Please write them in the chat.

## Parent Resources

- **SENG** –Supporting Emotional Needs of Gifted
  - [www.sengifted.org](http://www.sengifted.org)
- **NAGC** –National Association of Gifted Children
  - [www.nagc.org](http://www.nagc.org)
- **TAGT** –Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented
  - [www.txgifted.org](http://www.txgifted.org)
- **PACE** –Parents for Academic Excellence
  - [www.pacefortbend.org](http://www.pacefortbend.org)

# Parent Resources



<https://www.davidsongifted.org/>



<http://cty.jhu.edu/>



<https://www.destinationimagination.org/>



[www.giftedandtalented.com](http://www.giftedandtalented.com)

# Contact Us!

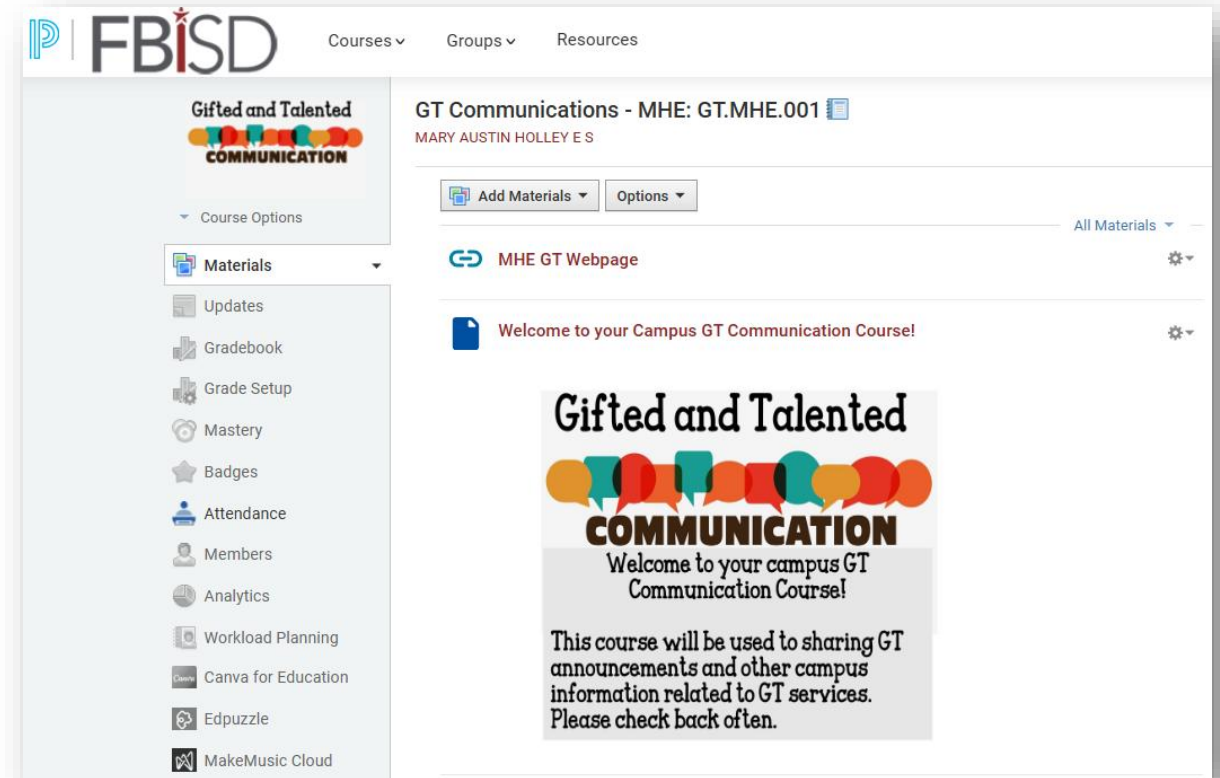
## 281-634-3850

*GT Counselor – Tonya Cole*  
[Tonya.Cole@fortbendisd.gov](mailto:Tonya.Cole@fortbendisd.gov)

*GT Administrator – Jeri Jones*  
[Jeri.Jones@fortbendisd.gov](mailto:Jeri.Jones@fortbendisd.gov)

*GT Champion of Gifted Services – Salma Yousef*  
[Salma.Yousef@fortbendisd.gov](mailto:Salma.Yousef@fortbendisd.gov)

*GT Parent Liaison: TBD*



The screenshot shows the Canvas LMS interface for the course 'Gifted and Talented COMMUNICATION' (MHE: GT.MHE.001) by Mary Austin Holley. The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with options like Course Options, Materials, Updates, Gradebook, Grade Setup, Mastery, Badges, Attendance, Members, Analytics, Workload Planning, Canva for Education, Edpuzzle, and MakeMusic Cloud. The main content area displays the course title, a link to the 'MHE GT Webpage', and a welcome message: 'Welcome to your Campus GT Communication Course!'. Below this is a graphic with the course title and a welcome message: 'Welcome to your campus GT Communication Course!'. A text box at the bottom states: 'This course will be used to sharing GT announcements and other campus information related to GT services. Please check back often.'

# **FBISD Gifted and Talented Department**

**Dr. Laurie Westphal (Director)**

**Anela Williams (Elementary Program Manager)**

**Aisha Coleman-Holmes (Secondary Program Manager)**

**Terry White (Curriculum Integration Coordinator)**

**Nancy Bryant (GT Mentorship Specialist)**

**Joseph Bernhart (GT Academy Coordinator)**

THANK

YOU

