

The Myths and Truths About the GT Academy

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Myths

- You have to be identified in all subjects in order to be eligible to apply for the GTA.
- If your sibling is at the GTA, then you will be given priority admittance to the GTA.
- To apply for the GTA, they look at grades, STAAR scores, teacher recommendation, and extracurriculars in addition to your CogAT scores.
- It's hard to make friends at the GTA because everyone comes from different elementary schools.
- There are many incidents of bullying involving the zoned students.
- GTA students will never interact with the zoned students.
- There are only projects at the GTA and no tests.
- If you attend the GTA, you will automatically get admitted to all the high school academies.
- The GTA is only about academic acceleration.
- GTA students cannot participate in sports.

Truths

- You only have to be GT identified in one subject to be eligible to apply for the GTA.
- The GTA only looks at your CoGAT score when you apply for the GTA.
- The GTA application process utilizes a two-tiered lottery if applicants exceed 180 students.
- Although the GTA is meant to challenge students academically, it is ultimately meant to provide a specialized approach to teaching GT students through cross-curricular and concept based instruction.
- The purpose of the GTA is to provide a nurturing environment to meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of GT identified middle school students.

- Teachers at the GTA want to help gifted minds grow and want to see the GTA students succeed.
- The curriculum is very project based which involves critical thinking.
- Group projects help students to learn to share their ideas and cooperate with each other.
- Students are expected to grow in their writing and presentation skills at the GTA.
- Since there is a significant amount of homework at the GTA, students strive for excellent time management and organizational skills to keep up with projects and homework.

Truths

- Everyone child is different and many students may feel that the workload is overwhelming. Both parents and students need to know the student and decide if the GTA is the right fit for them. It is okay to acknowledge that the GTA may not be for everyone.
- All GTA kids will earn 2 Spanish (on level) high credits and 1 Pre-AP Algebra 1 high school credit.
- Spanish is one of the electives that is required each year at the GTA so some of the electives that are available at other middle schools may not be offered here.
- Geometry is offered on campus if you have taken the CBE (Credit by Exam).

- Students will make many friends at the GTA as the students share many common interests and it's a close knit community.
- GTA students interact with zoned kids at lunch and during their electives.
- Many GTA students make friends with zoned kids as well.
- There is not any more bullying at QVMS than there are at other middle schools.
- Students come to the GTA from all different areas of Fort Bend which provides the students an opportunity to embrace many different cultures giving the students a different perspective.
- Students can be a GTA student and athlete.
- QVMS sports teams have both zoned students and GTA students on the same team.

A photograph of Quail Valley Middle School (QVMS) under a blue sky with white clouds. The school is a single-story building with a tan, textured exterior. On the left, the entrance features a set of glass double doors. Above the doors, the letters 'QVMS' are mounted in large, dark, three-dimensional block letters, with 'QUAIL VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL' written in smaller, dark capital letters below them. To the right of the entrance, there is a large, leafy green tree and some flowering bushes. A paved walkway leads from the foreground towards the school entrance. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

Thanks for listening!
Questions?