

COMING UP FOR FOR THE FIRST WEEKS OF SCHOOL

As you have heard through several district communications, our GT students will be receiving GT services in a variety of ways as we start the year online. Master schedules are being built to ensure cluster groups of GT students are in the same classes together. Students will have opportunities to participate in smaller, teacher-facilitated breakout groups, elementary will have the opportunity to engage in curricular alternatives (see page 3 for more details), and secondary students will continue to be served through rigorous Pre-AP and AP classes. All of our students will be challenged to investigate and process concepts on a deeper and more complex level.

Additionally, students will experience increased social/emotional support from teachers on a regular basis. All of our GT teachers have engaged in summer training on research-based support strategies for both online and face-to-face instruction.

SUMMER PROGRESS UPDATES

Our [web page](#) has been updated to be more informative. Pages have also been revised for the [GT Task Force](#) and the [Parent Advisory Committee](#) so you can learn more about our programs and progress.

The Task Force will be issuing a Quarterly Report for Quarter 2 (April, May, June) in August via e-mail to our GT families. The Report will also be available on the "News" tab of the GT web page once it has been distributed.

LINES OF COMMUNICATION

Your student's teacher is always the best place to start when you have a question about your student, but if you have questions about GT happenings on your campus, contact your campus COGS!

COGS stands for Champions of Gifted Services, and each campus has its own representative serving in this role. The COGS position is designed to help both our GT teachers and our GT families with information about campus and district GT events, as well as coordinate the implementation of the Texas Performance Standards Project (TPSP).

Additionally, COGS serve as liasons between the campus community (parents, students, and teachers) and the GT PAC (Parent Advisory Committee).



*Click the gears to find
your campus COGS!*

FOR OUR PARENTS

ARTICLES

As the new school year unfolds, the time is ripe to consider some important tips about creativity, productivity, and well-being. Read [14 Tips for a Successful School Year](#) by Dr. Joanne Foster to jump start your children's brains.

[Roots of Action](#) provides research-based resources for positive youth development in the digital age. Bookmark this one!

WHAT ARE CURRICULAR ALTERNATIVES? (ELEMENTARY)

Curricular Alternatives are lessons and activities that allow students to explore a topic with more depth and complexity. They are designed by GT-trained teachers with current classroom experience, and they are a part of each content area's curriculum interventions.

Curricular Alternatives are for students who have shown proficiency in the regular classroom content; therefore, they are given this DIFFERENT (not additional) work to challenge them on another level.

PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)

The Parent Advisory Committee exists to include parent representation from every Fort Bend ISD campus to ensure that school policies and programs benefit all students, including gifted learners. Representatives serve as liaisons between the campus community and the District Gifted and Talented leadership team.. At the beginning of each school year, the PAC holds a membership drive and election of officers to serve for the duration of the school year. Please consider volunteering to represent your child's campus and note the following dates for important deadlines:

GT PAC Membership Drive 08/05 – 08/26

Public Meeting 08/19

Nominations for Executive Board 09/02 – 09/09

GT PAC Election 09/09 – 09/15

Closed Meeting (Transition Meeting) 09/16

To volunteer to represent your child's campus, please send your name, and your child's campus to fbisdgtpac@gmail.com or click [HERE](#).

Articles of Interest for Our Students

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dr. Gail Post addresses understanding the middle school years for gifted children, as well as how students can help themselves and help their parents understand them. [Caught in the Middle](#)

What middle school student (and parent) doesn't want to understand the preteen brain and how to maximize its power? Dr. Thomas Armstrong outlines the science in this intriguing article: [MiddleWeb](#)

August's Middle School Book Recommendation: [101 Success Secrets for Gifted Kids: The Ultimate Handbook](#)

HIGH SCHOOL

Not every student is excited to begin a new school year. In fact, many gifted teenagers dread going back. Clinical psychologist Dr. Gail Post publishes a blog titled "Gifted Challenges." In this post, she discusses the reality of the "back to school blues" in gifted adolescents. [Gifted Challenges: Back to School Blues](#)

Post-Secondary goals don't always include college, but all options include planning. As you plan, include all of the costs, not just tuition. Consider books, software or lab materials, cost of living (rent or a dorm), food, entertainment, parking, and travel if you plan to go far from home. It adds up quickly! Knowing the true cost of attendance will help you know where to focus your energy when applying to post-secondary programs. The US Department of Education's [Net Price Calculator](#) allows you to input your institute of choice and find out what other students like you have paid to attend the institution in the previous year. This saves time in finding the calculator on each institute's individual website. Happy calculating!

ELEMENTARY

Early Elementary

Get ready for meeting new friends and teachers with [All About Me](#), ABCya's digital poster layout starring your child!

Send your little one back to school with some facts about healthy eating! [Fun Food Activities](#) from the University of Illinois combines healthy foods with educational skills through their interactive activities.

Upper Elementary

[The Kid Should See This](#) is an unprecedented collection of 4,500+ kid-friendly videos, curated for teachers and parents who want to share smarter, more meaningful media in the classroom and at home. The site curates material from those who celebrate curiosity, collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, kindness, and other essential themes for all ages.

Gifted Guru Lisa Van Gemert offers [15 Ways to Help Gifted Kids Thrive in School](#) just in time for the new school year. This guide is a detailed explanation of best practices for GT kids.

Mentorship Partner Highlights

Welcome (back) to Fort Bend ISD,
Dr. Nwachokor!

Dr. Daniel Nkachokor, a proud Hightower High School Medical Sciences Academy graduate, will be returning to FBISD as a mentor for one of our Kempner High School seniors in the GT Mentorship Program. His practice, Community Health and Life Center, is a family practice facility in Memorial Hermann, Sugar Land, offering services in family medicine and nutrition.

Click the logo for more information!



COMMUNITY HEALTH
And
LIFE CENTER

Daniel A. Nwachokor, MD, MPH
Board Certified Family Medicine



We are excited to welcome the National Alliance on Mental Illness Greater Houston and Neal Sarahan to our GT Mentorship Program as mentor to one of our Travis High School seniors.



Accelerating Digital Automation

Nitco, Inc. will be joining us for a second year as a mentor business, and Michael Hunt will be mentoring one of our Kempner High School seniors. Welcome back, Nitco, Inc!

Thank you to our partners in helping us find mentors for our seniors!

