

QUARTERLY REPORT ON PROGRAMMING AND PLANNING

OCTOBER 2024

QUARTER 3 - JULY-AUGUST-SEPTEMBER

IN THIS ISSUE

Programming Updates

- *Gifted and Talented Middle School Academy*
 - *Gifted and Talented Learning Plans*
 - *Gifted and Talented Mentorship Program*
 - *Vistas Talent Pool*
-

Pilot Updates

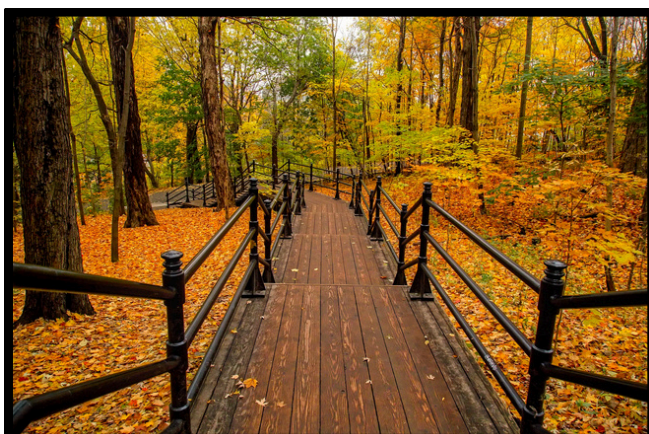
- *Innovation Hour*
 - *Innovation Lab*
-

Outreach Updates

- *Gifted and Talented Parent Advisory Committee (GTPAC)*
 - *Internal and External Communications*
-

Administrative Updates

- *Gifted and Talented Identification*
-



PROGRAMMING UPDATES

Gifted and Talented Middle School Academy -- Middle school students in the Gifted & Talented Academy at Quail Valley Middle School have started the year with vigor, experiencing one-of-a-kind lessons and exciting leadership opportunities. Early on in the year, grade 7 and grade 8 GTA students volunteered and served as student leaders, hosting GTA Information Booths at over 40 elementary school open houses. Over a series of four days in September, grade 8 GTA students ventured off-campus on a conceptual learning experience at the **Eternal Gandhi Museum** and **Houston Museum of Natural Science**. This will soon be followed by a class trip to the **Multicultural Education & Counseling Through the Arts** center in Houston to experience authentic ofrendas for Dia de los Muertos. In September and October, on three separate field experiences, grade 6 GTA students engaged in an extended cultural anthropology lesson by visiting the **BAPS Shri Mandir, Chung Mei Temple, Islamic Da'wah Center, Christ Cathedral Church, and Congregation Beth Israel**. In the same time frame, grade 7 GTA students ventured off-campus to Galveston, exploring **The Bryan Museum** and navigating an outdoor Goose Chase scavenger hunt in the Historic East District. Soon grade 7 GTA students will host the annual student-led **EdCamp Conference** where students themselves design and teach self-selected high interest classes to other students in the GTA. Currently, teachers and staff at the GTA are hard at work designing and refining more unique and specialized learning experiences for the students of the GTA, focusing on the academic and social-emotional needs of the children they happily serve.

Gifted and Talented Learning Plan -- The GT Learning Plan is designed to support the academic and personal development of students identified as gifted learners by helping students set, monitor, and achieve individual goals. The GT Learning Plans are fully phased-in for grades 1-11 at all campuses. High school campuses with GT students who participated in the GT Learning Plan pilots as 11th graders will expand integration of GT Learning Plans to 12th grade. In September, students developed goals and identified their action steps (if needed) to reach their goals. By September 30th, 47% of students participating in GT services had GT Learning Plans in Skyward. Moving forward, the focus will be on completing student goal setting for campuses below 90% completion and progress-monitoring to facilitate long-term achievement.

PROGRAMMING UPDATES (CONTINUED)

Gifted and Talented Mentorship Program -- The GT Mentorship Program's Class of 2025, representing nine of the District's high schools, has been hard at work honing their professional resumes and interview skills, as well as collaborating on a book study (Thinking 101: How to Reason Better to Live Better, by Ahn Woo-Kyoung). Student placements for spring mentorship experiences have been finalized with the **434th District Court** (Honorable Judge J. Christian Becerra), **City of Sugar Land Strategic and Government Affairs**, **Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital** (NICU, OB/GYN, Orthopedics, and Radiology), **Houston Methodist Research Institute**, **Houston Methodist Legal**, **LEAF Engineers**, **Memorial Hermann Southwest** (General Surgery, Neurosurgery, and Pathology), **My Houston Surgeons**, **Planned Community Development**, **Rice University** (Computer Science), **Sienna Dermatology**, **Strike Marketing**, and **Unlimited Prosthetics**. We look forward to finalizing our remaining students' placements during the 4th quarter.

Vistas Talent Pool -- The Vistas Talent Pool is a vital initiative aimed at recognizing and cultivating the talents of potentially high performing students at 22 Title I elementary campuses. There are 729 students participating in the Vistas Talent Pool for the 2024-2025 school year. The Vistas Talent Pool provides a range of enrichment activities and collaborative projects to challenge students and foster critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration skills. During the 2024 summer professional learning season, Vistas Talent Pool teachers attended GT professional learning to enhance instructional practices and implement the online digital resource for depth and complexity included in the Vistas Talent Pool curriculum.

PILOT UPDATES

Innovation Hour --The GT Department continues to expand the Innovation Hour program and is excited to add seven new campuses this school year. As part of this expansion, campus leaders and teachers have been onboarded to enhance their understanding of the Innovation Hour program and the instructional resources available to support both teachers and students. Additionally, some campuses have had the opportunity to observe Innovation Hour in action by participating in instructional walks at other Innovation Hour campuses. The GT Department will now focus on scheduling instructional walks to provide program support and guidance for Innovation Hour campuses.

Elementary Campuses:

Arizona Fleming	Austin Parkway*	Bhuchar*	Blue R/Briar G
Brazos Bend*	Cornerstone	Commonwealth	Dulles
Goodman	Holley*	Juan Seguin*	Lantern Lane
Lexington Creek	Madden	Malala	Meadows
Neill	Oakland	Palmer	Patterson
Rosa Parks	Scanlan Oaks*	Settlers Way	Sullivan
Walker Station			

Secondary Campuses:

Bowie Middle School*
Garcia Middle School

*New Campuses for 2024-2025

Innovation Lab -- The GT-specific independent study course titled Innovation Lab is now in its second year at Sartartia MS. This year, our 6th grade gifted students are diving into the study of global issues, allowing them to engage in meaningful, in-depth research developing a broader understanding of the world around them.

This course is designed to foster independent learning and encourage our GT students to become thoughtful, informed global citizens. The GT team is incredibly proud of their progress and dedication as they explore these important topics.

OUTREACH UPDATES

Gifted and Talented Parent Advisory Committee (GTPAC) -- The GT PAC nominated a new Executive Board for the 2024-25 school year. The members are Luke Parkitny (President), Haley Park (President-Elect), Yasmin White (Secretary), and Manali Tanna (Parliamentarian). Together with the GT Team, the new Executive Board will work closely with the school community to enhance the educational experiences of our GT students, develop new initiatives, and ensure that the needs of our GT community are met.

Internal Communications -- A new **GT teacher newsletter** was launched at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year, as well as a **GT teacher's dedicated webpage** to provide our classroom teachers with resources, programming information, and professional development opportunities. Teachers receive the newsletter directly through email each month, and the first two newsletters received an average of 425 views. The Gt Department is very excited about having this communication in place for our GT teachers.

External Communications -- Several platforms are being used again this school year to communicate with our parents and stakeholders in the community. Parents receive a monthly **smore newsletter** with updates on GT programming, family events being offered by the GT department, and opportunities to connect with other GT parents through various means such as the TAGT podcast and parent webinars. Each campus continues to have a **GT webpage** dedicated to information about GT programming, as well as campus-specific GT information. Finally, each student is auto-enrolled in a campus **GT Communications course in Schoology** where both District and campus GT personnel may post information pertinent to our parents and students.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Gifted and Talented Identification -- The Gifted and Talented identification and referral process began the first day of school and was entirely online this year. Parents, guardians, teachers, and counselors were able to submit referrals through the GT Online Referral App, available on the GT webpage. The GT referral window opened on August 8 and closed September 30, 2024. During this time, the GT Department received 3,898 referrals. During the next quarter, referred students will be evaluated for consideration for the need for GT services.
