

QUARTERLY REPORT ON PROGRAMMING AND PLANNING

OCTOBER 2025

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*
-

Pilot Updates

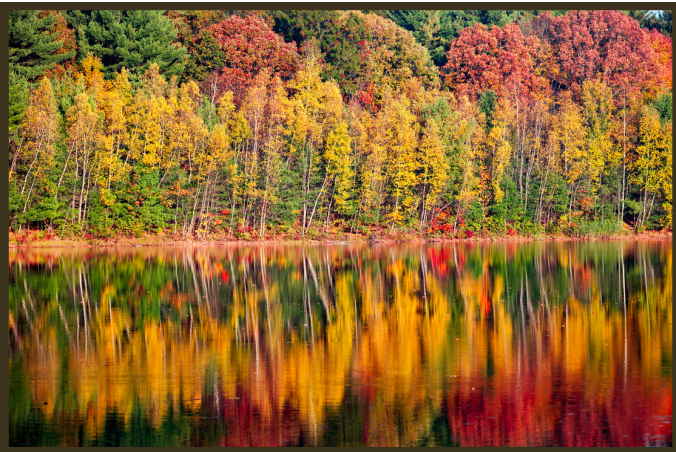
- *Innovation Hour*
 - *Innovation Lab*
-

Outreach Updates

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

Administrative Updates

- *Gifted and Talented Identification*
 - *Professional Learning*
-



PROGRAMMING UPDATES

Gifted and Talented Middle School Academy -- Just six weeks into the school year, the Gifted and Talented Academy is off to a running start. Students have successfully acclimated to another school year rich with learning opportunities specially designed with them in mind. Using the nine weeks conceptual lenses of foundations (grade 6), influences (grade 7), and innovations (grade 8), GTA teachers have led the charge into a thrilling school year. **GTA sixth graders** began investigating the foundations of human culture and tradition on field experiences to the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Chung Mei Buddhist Temple, and Islamic Da'wah Center. During a day long on-campus field experience in September, **GTA eighth graders** began exploring and researching ideas for their Manifest the Change learning challenge. This year-long initiative begins with innovations as students seek to consider and learn about problems facing their communities with the aim of eventually responding with an original outreach service project.

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. All GT students in grades 1-12 have GT Learning Plans. This year, the GT Department created and gave teachers a GT Learning Plan Goals Template to guide students as they develop quality academic and affective goals that include specific actions and timelines for completion. In September, students drafted and conferenced with their teachers about their goals.

PROGRAMMING UPDATES (CONT'D)

Gifted and Talented Mentorship Program -- The Class of 2026 has gotten off to a solid start, attending seminars two times per week in the evenings. Host campuses this year are Settlers Way Elementary and Meadows Elementary. Students have attended team building, a leadership training, and 11 of the 25 students have been confirmed in their mentorship placements for the spring. New mentor partners to the program include **Finoric, LLC** (chemical engineering), **Texas Children's Hospital Neurological Research Center**, and **Studio RED** (architecture). Returning mentors include **Honorable Judge J. Christian Becerra** (434th District Court), **Memorial Hermann Hospital System**, **Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital**, **Houston Methodist Research Institute**, and Fort Bend ISD's very own **Early Intervention Academy**. The program looks forward to sharing the additional students' placements in the Quarter 4 report.

PILOT UPDATES

Innovation Hour -- Innovation Hour - The GT Department is pleased to announce four campuses have joined Innovation Hour for the 2025-2026 school year. This brings the total number of Innovation Hour campuses to 33. To ensure a smooth launch, the Department has onboarded new teachers and campus leaders, providing them with the necessary resources and training to support their students.

Some of these new schools have already gotten a head start by observing the program in action during instructional walks at existing Innovation Hour campuses. The GT Department is now working to schedule more of these walks to provide continued support and guidance to all our participating schools.

Elementary Campuses:

Aldridge, Arizona Fleming, Austin Parkway, Bhuchar, *Barrington Place, Brazos Bend, *Colony Bend, Cornerstone, Commonwealth, Dulles, Goodman, *Highlands, Holley, Juan Seguin, Lantern Lane, Lexington Creek, Madden, Malala, Meadows, Neill, Oakland, Palmer, Patterson, Rosa Parks, Scanlan Oaks, *Sienna Crossing, Settlers Way Sullivan, Walker Station

Secondary Campuses:

Bowie Middle School, Garcia Middle School, *Travis High School

*denotes new campuses for the 2025-2026 school year.

Innovation Lab -- The Innovation Lab course allows sixth grade GT students at Sartartia MS to identify real-world problems or areas of interests, design project plans, and apply research, creativity, and critical thinking skills to develop innovative solutions. With guidance from a teacher, learners build independence, practice time management, and showcase their work through a final presentation or product. This course fosters global perspectives, resilience, and a lifelong love of learning.

OUTREACH UPDATES

Gifted and Talented Parent Advisory Committee (GTPAC) -- The GT Parent Advisory Committee (GT PAC) held its first meeting of the 2025-26 school year on September 10, 2025. This year, the GT PAC will host four in-person meetings—two each semester. A total of 37 GT parents attended the first meeting. The committee is also seeking additional parent members to join. The 2025-26 GT PAC Executive Board includes:

- President: Kim Hibschi
- President-Elect: Vacant
- Secretary: Steve Joshy
- Parliamentarian: Vacant

Internal Communications -- The **GT teacher newsletter**, GT Spark! has returned this year, with an emphasis on increasing awareness and readership amongst our GT educator community. The newsletter will support this past summer's professional learning with resources and classroom tips for implementing depth and complexity to differentiate for our gifted and talented students across the District.

External Communications -- Our monthly smore newsletter continues to be published widely on multiple platforms - parent email, the GT website, campus GT webpages, and in the GT Communications courses in Schoology. GT students on our Title I campuses are also given a printed flyer with a QR code to take home to their family in the event parents in those communities do not have regular digital access. Analytics on the August and September newsletters are showing an average readership of 11,500 views. Of particular interest in these issues were information on local events and opportunities, as well as interest in the GT Parent Advisory Committee.

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, 2025. 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 4,787 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 - The required 3-hour GT Update, Compass for Complexity, has been revamped to allow teachers who did not take it over the summer to make it up over two evenings with an asynchronous assignment. Teachers were notified of all four sessions being offered over the course of the fall semester, and registration is now open.

In addition to offering fall professional learning, the GT Department is striving to complete **GT Programmatic Walkthroughs** on all campuses for all grade levels in all four core content areas by the end of the spring semester. The data gathered will determine the effectiveness of the current learning in Compass for Complexity, as well as inform next steps for learning design for the summer of 2026.
