

QUARTERLY REPORT ON PROGRAMMING AND PLANNING

JANUARY 2025

QUARTER 4 - OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

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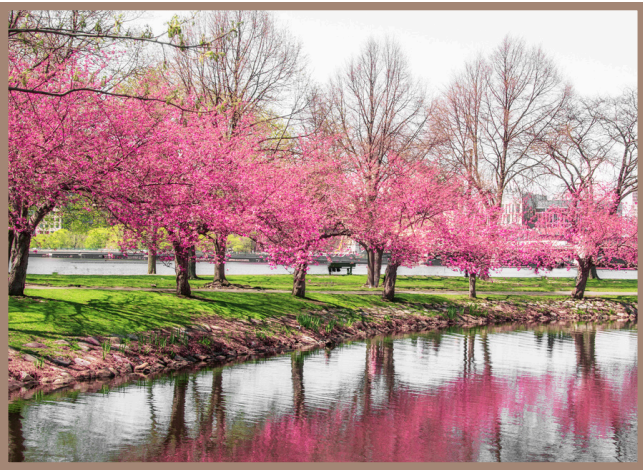
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PROGRAMMING UPDATES

Gifted and Talented Middle School Academy -- After a strong start to the year, students in the Gifted & Talented Academy at Quail Valley Middle School continued learning at a vigorous rate both on and off campus. GTA students stepped outside of traditional classroom walls on multiple occasions:

- 6th Grade: Participated in “Imagining the Change,” exploring social justice and self-awareness. Assembled Refugee Care Packages for Interfaith Ministries as part of an ELA service project.
- 7th Grade: Led “EdCamp,” a student-directed conference with over 40 student-designed and presented sessions.
- 8th Grade: Visited MECA in Houston to study and create ofrendas for Día de los Muertos, integrating Spanish and research skills. Engaged in mindfulness exercises on campus and at Brazos River Park, combining relaxation and nature activities.

Gifted and Talented Learning Plan -- Campuses continue to monitor the GT Learning Plan and student goal progress. The first progress check was entered on the GT Learning Plan by December 13, 2024. Campuses with fewer than 85% of GT Learning Plans entered for identified gifted students are drafting plans of action to implement GT Learning Plans for the Spring semester.

Gifted and Talented Mentorship Program -- The Class of 2025 cohort has been engaged in completing an original research endeavor, designing their own methodology and writing up results in the form of an academic journal. All 26 students have been placed with professional mentors for the spring semester, and we are pleased to have partnered with **Bellaire Dermatology** and **Fort Bend County’s Behavioral Health Services Division** to finalize all of our placements. Students will begin their 5-hour per week mentorships the week of January 13, 2025.

PILOT UPDATES

Innovation Hour -- This year, the GT Department has focused on building teacher capacity and understanding of Innovation Hour. To equip our teachers and campus leaders, we have provided professional learning to onboard campuses to Innovation Hour. Additionally, staff have conducted instructional walks to provide feedback on the implementation of Innovation Hour. These walks will continue through the spring semester to determine the specific support needed by each of our Innovation Hour campuses.

Innovation Lab -- Enrollment for the **Innovation Lab course**, a GT-specific independent study program at Sartartia Middle School, has grown for the 2024-25 school year. This dynamic course challenges students daily to explore and develop creative solutions to global issues of their choice. In December, students presented their work at the fall showcase, which centered on the theme of pollution. They showcased innovative solutions, including a water purification system, a greenhouse, a tree garden, and a solar generator, all designed to address different forms of pollution. This hands-on approach empowers students to think critically and contribute meaningfully to real-world challenges. We are committed to expanding this course to additional middle school campuses in the upcoming year. To ensure the best approach, we are currently analyzing GT enrollment trends to identify the most effective options.

OUTREACH UPDATES

Gifted and Talented Parent Advisory Committee (GTPAC) -- In November, the GT PAC collaborated with Astronomy on Wheels to host an exciting GT Family Event at Quail Valley Middle School. This event brought together 98 GT students and their families for an unforgettable evening of exploring the wonders of the universe. Attendees discovered constellations and planets through interactive and engaging activities led by astronomy experts. It was a fantastic opportunity to ignite curiosity and foster a lifelong love for science!

Internal Communications -- The new **GT teacher newsletter** has continued to go out on a monthly basis and is receiving positive feedback. It is averaging about 300 clicks per month, slightly below our desired target, so we will continue to gain feedback from teachers on how we can improve. We have been able to share research-based information and strategies on overexcitabilities (OE) in gifted children through a monthly series called "That's Intense." Additionally, we are continuing to build teacher capacity by highlighting a different icon for depth and complexity each month, building upon this summer's GT update training for all of the District's GT teachers. Other monthly features have included updates and current happenings with the GT Learning Plan, Innovation Hour, and TPSP so teachers are aware of deadlines and next steps for each. Finally, we have had the opportunity to recognize several of our GT teachers through a monthly feature of "Teacher Sparks." Teachers recognized to date include **Nasreen Momin (QVMS)**, **Jeanette Morales (QVMS)**, and **Sonya Hale (MYE)**

External Communications -- Parents continue to receive a monthly **smore newsletter** with updates on GT programming, family events being offered by the GT department, and contests/events in the larger community. The parent newsletter is receiving an average of about **12, 500 clicks per month**, and parents are interacting with the event and programming websites the most. We have worked with the Communications Department to ensure uniformity across our campus **GT webpages**, and campus webmasters are currently in the process of finishing up this work.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Gifted and Talented Identification -- During last quarter of 2024, the Gifted and Talented identification process involved the administration of the CogAT cognitive abilities test in late October/early November, with the exception of second-grade students. The test included Non-Verbal, Verbal, and Quantitative subtests, and was conducted during school hours. While parents completed a GT Behavior Observation Form in the GT application as part of the referral process. Teachers will be completing a School Rating Scale in the GT App for referred students early next quarter. Parents will receive written notification of the committee's decision in February 2025. The notification date will be available on the [GT Fall Identification webpage](#).
