

FBISD GT parents and students:

At the most recent FBISD Board of Trustees meeting, our School Board and senior administration officials restated their commitment to making meaningful and robust improvements to FBISD's GT program. It is an exciting time as the District and community work together to meet the educational and social/emotional needs of our GT learners. We would like to let you all know about a few initiatives that we hope will move the needle forward in FBISD GT programming:

1 - The GT Task Force

Since its inception in 2017, the GT Task Force - a working committee made up of students, parents, teachers, counselors and administrators - has been meeting regularly to help guide the District as we rethink our GT policies, procedures, services and delivery. Part of their work has included the creation of a Five-Year Plan which is a strategic and ambitious framework to take steps towards necessary GT improvements. The Task Force has recently been divided into working subcommittees to tackle the "Big Rocks" of our Five-Year Plan, including acceleration, communication, curriculum, secondary service design, and student identification/program expansion. There is much hard work underway as the subcommittees meet a couple of times each month and the Task Force meets as a group once a month. Please check the District's GT department web page, newsletter, and quarterly report to stay up to date on the Task Force progress.

2 - The GT PAC (Parent Advisory Committee)

The District also formed a GT Parent Advisory Committee. This group strives to have representation from every campus in the District. (For more information about how you can become a PAC representative, please email fbisdgtpac@gmail.com). PAC representatives serve as liaisons between their campuses and the PAC so that issues/concerns/praise can be communicated and documented. The PAC has representation on the Task Force, and the Task Force will have representatives on the PAC. This cross-representation ensures efforts are not duplicated and both groups are looking at issues/questions from all angles as we continue to work towards improvement. Please check the District's GT department web page, newsletter, and quarterly report to stay up to date on PAC news.

3 - Quarterly Report and Monthly Newsletter

Beginning this fall, the GT Task Force Communications Subcommittee will issue a Quarterly Report that will be distributed to all families of GT students in the District. This Quarterly Report will highlight GT Task Force progress, GT PAC news, where we are in the FBISD GT Five-Year Plan, and any policy/procedure updates. We hope this comprehensive communication tool will help our GT community to better understand current projects, and how it impacts our GT learners. Keep in mind, the Quarterly Report will be in addition to the already established monthly GT Newsletter - which has also been revamped - to include age-appropriate resources, as well as student/class spotlights highlighting how new GT policy/procedures/programs are being implemented. Both of these publications will be distributed via e-mail to all parents/guardians of GT students in the District, as well as archived on the District's GT web page.

4 - FBISD GT Department web page

We have also streamlined and updated the GT department web page to ensure it is informative and

clear. We hope you will take some time to visit our web page at <https://www.fortbendisd.com/gifted>. We will continue to keep the page updated as new programs/services are implemented and/or any changes are made.

These are challenging times for so many reasons. We want to ensure that we are keeping our GT community informed and updated as FBISD continues on its path towards providing learning opportunities that challenge and develop the abilities of learners identified for gifted services. Should you have any questions, please reach out to Felicia Hernandez, Executive Assistant for the GT Department, at (281) 634-1357 or via e-mail at Felicia.Hernandez@fortbendisd.com. She will be able to answer your questions or direct you to the proper department staff member.

Very sincerely,

Dr. Laurie Westphal
Director, Gifted and Talented Department
Fort Bend ISD