



DSISD Gifted and Talented Program



Introductions

District GT Coordinators

Mandy Turner

mandy.turner@dsisdtx.us

Michael Kryszak

michael.kryszak@dsisdtx.us

Dripping Springs ISD GT Teachers

Kari Potter, DSISD GT Specialist (DSE, WSE)

kari.potter@dsisdtx.us

Clancy Lisko, DSISD GT Specialist (RSE, SSE)

clancy.lisko@dsisdtx.us



GT Program Delivery- Elementary

- GT Students spend one day a week with the GT Specialist.
- All homeroom teachers of gifted students are GT trained or GT certified to provide differentiated instruction in all core subjects.
- Students will attend special areas, lunch and recess with their homeroom class.



GT Program Delivery-Elementary

- GT Specialists will provide a variety of enrichment experiences that incorporate the core content areas: Math, Science, Social Studies, Language Arts.
- GT students will have the opportunity explore topics which interest them with an emphasis on problem solving, reasoning, creativity and innovation.
- Experiences will include, but are not limited to; PBL, Science Projects, CAD Design, Coding, Individual Research Investigations and STEAM projects.



Kindergarten GT info

- Kindergarten testing begins in the spring semester.
- Upon qualification during the spring semester, kinder students will receive GT enrichment from their homeroom teachers with the guidance of a GT specialist.
- Qualifying kindergarten students will start receiving GT services through a pull out program in August of their first grade year.



GT Program Delivery-Elementary

What is happening in the Homeroom class when my child is with the GT Specialist?

- Small group instruction for enrichment and/or reinforcement of grade level curriculum.
- Homeroom teachers may compact the curriculum for GT students by pre-testing, shortening assignments and/or using individual learning contracts.



GT Program Delivery- Secondary

- Middle School and High School students are served through the general education classroom by teachers that are GT trained or GT certified.
- Gifted students are grouped in clusters within classes or through pure GT classes when available.
- Secondary gifted instruction should include differentiated instruction, higher levels of discussion, and opportunities to create and innovate. It should NOT be more work.
- Gifted students may choose the subjects in which they receive GT services. They must select one per year in order to remain eligible in the program.



Advanced Academics- Secondary

Gifted students, along with all students, have the following options for coursework in middle school and high school.

- Accelerated Instruction- qualification based on a placement test. Elementary students have this option, too.
- Dual Credit Courses- offered to 9th-12th graders, college credit through Austin Community College. Students must have the maturity to work without parental support. ACC does not communicate with parents; students are expected to be accountable for all communication regardless of the age of the student.
- UT On Ramps Courses- offered to 9th-12th graders, students have two teachers (DSHS & UT Austin) and receive a grade from both. Students decide at the end of the course if they want to receive college credit.



GT Assessment Process

- Anyone can recommend a student for GT
- Parents must complete the referral to begin the testing process. The form can be found on the District website.
 - Go Parents and Students, Academics, Gifted and Talented, GT Referral Form *(a demonstration will be offered at the end of this presentation)*
- When the form has been received, the referral process will be initiated.



GT Assessment Process

- There are several assessments involved in the GT identification process.
 - Logical Processing/Reasoning skills
 - Cognitive development- the ability to learn new tasks, and problem solving abilities
 - Academic Aptitude/Achievement
 - Aptitude- the ability to learn or to develop proficiency in an area
 - Achievement - measure the extent to which a person has "achieved" something, acquired certain information, or mastered certain skills
- Students are pulled from class for up to an hour for each testing session. Secondary students for up to two hours.



GT Assessment Process

- The assessment process is built on 6 indicators:
 - Academic Achievement
 - Reasoning Ability
 - Non-Verbal Ability
 - School Survey
 - Home Survey
 - PLE (planned learning experience)
- How does a student qualify?
 - 5 of 6 indicators are needed to qualify
 - 4 of 6 indicators allow for a committee review

* If a student does not meet minimum standards on the first 3 indicators, testing is ceased.



GT Assessment Process

- Although students can be gifted in creativity and leadership abilities, Dripping Springs ISD does not assess for those areas. The district only assesses for high performance capability in general intelligence and specific academic subjects, as those are the areas that are served through the current DSISD GT program.
- As a District of Innovation, DSISD strives to offer leadership opportunities and creative outlets for all students within the course of the school day and with after school programming.



GT Assessment Process

- Testing takes place over several weeks.
- The district GT assessment committee will meet according to the schedule, and determine eligibility based on the data collected.
- Parents will be notified of placement decisions after the assessment committee meeting.
- Questions related to assessment results or the assessment process should be directed to your campus DSISD GT Specialist, or a GT Coordinator for secondary campuses.



Deadlines for Referrals

In order for students to participate in the GT program at the start of the 2019-2020 school year, students must be referred for testing by:

- March 8th- Students currently in grades K-5
- April 12th- Students currently in grades 6-11

Demonstration of How to Access the Referral Form:

<https://www.dsisdtx.us/dsisd>



Questions?