

QUARTERLY REPORT ON PROGRAMMING AND PLANNING

APRIL 2025

QUARTER 1 - JANUARY-FEBRUARY-MARCH

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PROGRAMMING UPDATES

Gifted and Talented Middle School Academy -- It's been a vibrant and action-packed spring at the Gifted and Talented Academy at Quail Valley Middle School!

Sixth graders took part in the "Perspectives" field experience, volunteering at the Houston Food Bank and touring public art installations at the University of Houston. Back on campus, they worked with a professional artist to create original perspective paintings.

Seventh graders embarked on the overnight "Texas Journeys" trip, exploring the Texas State Capitol and Bullock Museum in Austin, then heading to San Antonio to visit the Alamo, Historic Market Square, and San Jose Mission.

Eighth graders deepened their understanding of World War II and the Holocaust with a powerful multi-day experience at the Houston Holocaust Museum, including film discussions and creating symbolic origami butterflies.

Meanwhile, the GTA application window for 2025-26 closed on February 28. With over 200 students accepted (pending commitment by March 28) and nearly 100 hopefuls on the waitlist, interest in the program is strong.

2025 is off to an inspiring start, and the GTA is ready to continue sparking curiosity and passion in its students—today and in the year ahead!

Gifted and Talented Learning Plan -- We have made great progress with GT Learning Plans. We have a 73% completion rate so far! These individualized plans are essential in ensuring that each gifted student receives the support, enrichment, and challenges they need to thrive.

PROGRAMMING UPDATES (CONT'D)

Gifted and Talented Mentorship Program -- The students in the Class of 2025 started their five-hour-per-week on-site mentorships the week of January 11, and they participated in recruiting meetings for the Class of 2026. In addition, several students got to participate in full-day experiences, including **surgical cases, a Fort Bend County Lunch and Learn on mental health for first responders, medical research lab work, real estate development strategy meetings, and a 12-hour rotation on the OB/GYN unit.** February included interviewing 130 applicants to the program for the Class of 2026, and in March the Class of 2026 was selected. The students in the Class of 2025 will be completing their research endeavors with their mentors, and will be ready to share their work in their upcoming showcase event.

PILOT UPDATES

Innovation Hour -- Over the last three months, the department has conducted informational meetings regarding Innovation Hour with Colony Bend Elementary, Highlands Elementary, and Sienna Crossing Elementary. As a result of these meetings, the campuses have agreed to join Innovation Hour during the 2025-2026 school year. The department will conduct additional training and support for these campuses in the fall to ensure that parents, teachers, and students are supported as they transition to Innovation Hour.

Innovation Lab -- As part of our ongoing efforts to provide unique learning opportunities, our Innovation Lab students attended a day camp at Camp Allen in Navasota, Texas, for an immersive, hands-on experience. This field experience allowed GT students to explore real-world problem-solving, teamwork, and critical thinking skills in a dynamic outdoor learning environment. Through interactive workshops, STEM challenges, and leadership activities, they applied their creativity and innovation in meaningful ways.

OUTREACH UPDATES

Gifted and Talented Parent Advisory Committee (GTPAC) -- GT students along with their families are volunteering at the Houston Food Bank on March 22, 2025! This meaningful service opportunity will allow GT students to give back to the community while developing leadership and teamwork skills. During their time at the food bank, students will help sort, pack, and distribute food to families in need, making a real impact on hunger relief efforts in the Houston area. This experience aligns with our commitment to fostering empathy, responsibility, and civic engagement among our gifted learners.

Internal Communications -- The **GT teacher newsletter** has gone up slightly in readership during this quarter, and teachers are continuing to engage with the content. The featured "That's Intense" series on overexcitabilities in GT students was well-received, and we are looking for a new series to include in coming issues.

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. Analytics on the March newsletter showed an overwhelming interest in the three GT Summer Camp offerings and the upcoming Sugar Land Art and Kite Festival.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Gifted and Talented Identification -- During the first quarter of 2025, the Gifted and Talented (GT) identification process included several key milestones. In January, the spring referral window opened for students who enrolled in FBISD after the fall referral deadline of September 30, 2024. On February 8, these newly referred students participated in the spring administration of the CogAT, which assessed cognitive abilities across Non-Verbal, Verbal, and Quantitative subtests. Also in late January, teachers completed the School Rating Scale in the GT App for students referred during the fall window. Identification decisions for the fall-referred students were finalized on February 12, 2025, with GT profiles made available in the GT App. The GT Fall appeals window ran from February 12 to February 27, with appeals meetings held daily from February 19 through March 28, 2025. Students referred during the spring window will be able to view their GT profiles in the GT App during the first week of April.
