

QUARTERLY REPORT ON PROGRAMMING AND PLANNING

JULY 2025

QUARTER 2 - APRIL-MAY-JUNE

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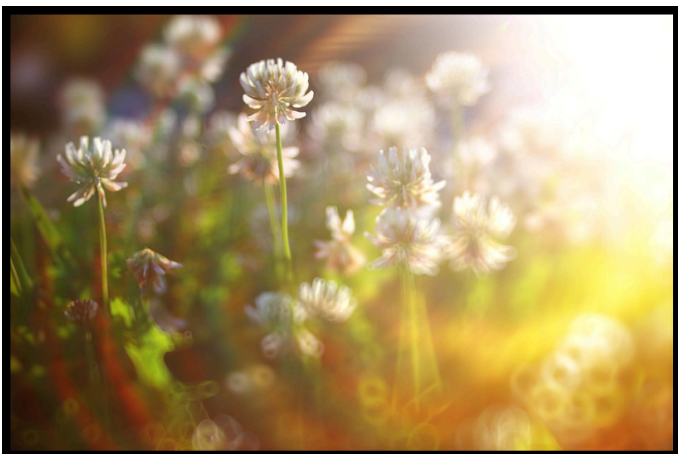
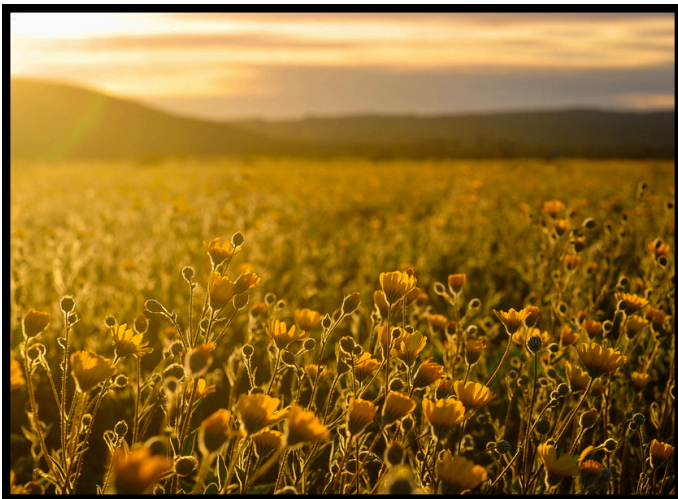
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PROGRAMMING UPDATES

Gifted and Talented Middle School Academy -- The Gifted and Talented Academy at Quail Valley Middle school ended the year in full stride, crossing the finish line with no time to spare. Below are some highlights from term 4. Sixth graders in the GTA went to the Houston Museum of Natural Science, concentrating their experience on just 2 exhibits of their own choosing (in addition to the Planetarium and Giant Screen movie). They also conducted and ran the Explorer World Market on campus, creating their own countries (an act that involved synthesis and creation using EVERYTHING they studied all year long) and then negotiating trades and policies with other countries in the marketplace.

Seventh graders in the GTA traveled to East Beach in Galveston to conduct experiments on erosion and deposition by designing, building, and--ha, ha!--destroying sandcastles in scientific teams. They also participated in real world math aligned with the 7th and 8th grade curriculum by participating in the Junior Achievement Finance Park program, including a digital simulation in which they applied what they learned.

Eighth graders in the GTA closed out the year with the first ever GTA8 Overnight at Camp Olympia on Lake Livingston in Trinity, TX. While there, students were challenged by Camp Director, Brian McDaniel, to grow by operating out of their comfort zones and to practice mindfulness by living in the moment. Together with the classmates and friends with whom they studied, laughed, and learned over the past 3 years, students went fishing, birding, eco-touring, and ziplining in addition to cooking, practicing archery, team building, gardening, and just generally having a good ole time. It was a fantastic culminating experience for students as they transition to high school and begin the next chapter of their lives.

The GTA is proud to offer such unique and valuable programming and is actively and happily planning for the 2025-26 school year.

Gifted and Talented Learning Plan -- At the end-of-year review for the GT Learning Plan, students and teachers reflected on the goal achievement process. We had GT Learning plans completed for 74.1% of our GT students.

PROGRAMMING UPDATES (CONT'D)

Gifted and Talented Mentorship Program -- The students in the Class of 2025 completed their spring mentorships and showcased their original research projects at the Reese Center on April 28, 2025. The showcase was also the platform for ushering in the new class of 2026, consisting of 25 students representing ten of the District's twelve high schools. We look forward to getting these students prepared for their mentorship journey in the coming months!

SIPE Workstream – The SIPE Workstream met regularly this quarter to review and improve the Gifted and Talented appeals process. Conversations have focused on current procedures, common reasons for appeals, appeal outcomes, and trends seen in parent submissions over the past three years. The data showed that a large number of overturned decisions were connected to missing or incomplete parent inventory forms and documented testing issues/irregularities.

To help guide possible changes, the Workstream looked at how other districts manage their GT appeal process. In many cases, other districts only allow appeals for specific reasons and appeal were discussed at a District-level meeting. Based on these examples, the SIPE Workstream developed and put forth a new, more efficient process that would limit the reasons for appeals. Additionally, a District-level committee will review all appeals and make final decisions.

PILOT UPDATES

Innovation Hour -- Innovation Hour Year in Review – During the 2024-2025 academic year, six campuses joined Innovation Hour. All these campuses were committed to empowering students to develop their natural curiosity and create advanced projects focused on their individual passions. We look forward to continuing our work with these campuses and increasing the impact Innovation Hour has on students across Fort Bend ISD.

Innovation Lab -- We have completed the second pilot year of the GT Innovation Lab course at Sartartia Middle School. To support decisions regarding the potential expansion of GT service options for secondary students, participating students completed an End-of-Course survey.

Results of the survey showed that most students rated their overall experience in the Innovation Lab elective course as Good or Excellent, highlighting project-based learning, team collaboration, and the course's non-traditional structure as standout features. While many enjoyed the hands-on projects, they also indicated that these project were the most challenging aspect, particularly due to time constraints, group dynamics, and research demands.

Students reported strong development in analytical and oral communication skills, with slightly lower growth in written communication and time management. Most felt the difficulty level of the independent study projects was appropriate, and while assessment clarity was generally seen as fair, some suggested improvements.

Only a few students reported that the course influenced their academic or career interests, though several noted a deeper awareness of global issues. Suggestions for course improvement were minimal, with most students expressing satisfaction and no major concerns.

OUTREACH UPDATES

Gifted and Talented Parent Advisory Committee (GTPAC) -- The GT PAC conducted an election to appoint Executive Board members for the 2025–26 school year. Kim Hibschi has been elected as GT PAC President, and Steve Joshi will serve as Secretary. Elections for the President-Elect and Parliamentarian positions will take place in the fall.

Internal Communications -- The **GT teacher newsletter** has continued to have strong readership, and it will be our plan to continue this newsletter specifically designed for GT teachers during the 2025-2026 school year.

External Communications -- The month of May saw the final parent newsletter go out for the 2024-2025 school year. This quarter's readership over the three newsletters averaged at just over 11,000 views. Smore has proven to be a great platform for the newsletter, as well as the various avenues through which it is published (campus GT webpages, District GT webpage, Schoology communications, and campus COGS).

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Gifted and Talented Identification -- During the 2024-25 school year, a total of 4,061 students were referred for GT services through a combination of parent referrals, teacher referrals, and the District's universal screening process. Of those, 3,804 students (93.7 percent) had parent consent submitted and were eligible for testing. A total of 704 students—681 through the main testing windows and 23 through the Vistas universal screener—have been identified for GT services, representing approximately 18.5% of those tested. A total of 173 appeals were submitted, most often related to incomplete SIGS data, testing irregularity, or substantial evidence. While the majority of the identification decisions were upheld, about 17 percent of the decisions were overturned through appeal.

Professional Learning – The Department utilized instructional walk data to design professional learning for GT teachers, specifically addressing gaps identified in the observational data. Based on this information, the department developed professional learning centered around the Depth and Complexity dimensions. Through this learning, teachers will be equipped to effectively embed these dimensions into Tier 1 instruction and will receive tools to empower them to implement these practices in their classrooms.
