

# Gifted and Talented Program

Coppell ISD  
2009

# What is a GT Student?

- Perform at a remarkably high level of accomplishment or
- Show potential for performing at a remarkably high level of accomplishment
- Compared to students of similar age, experience, or environment.

# What is a GT Student?

- In CISD we identify and serve remarkably high levels of accomplishment in the following areas:
  - General intellectual ability
  - Specific subject aptitude in mathematics
  - Specific subject aptitude in language arts

# Two Levels of the GT Program

- Elementary Level (Grades k-5)
- Secondary Level (Grades 6-12)
  - GT Mathematics and Science
  - GT Language Arts and Social Studies
- When a student qualifies to participate in the elementary GT program, he/she is not automatically qualified to participate in the secondary GT program (middle school and high school).

# Elementary GT to Secondary GT

- An elementary GT student may qualify for an automatic transition in the middle school GT program if he/she meets the following criteria:
  - Participate in the elementary GT program in 5<sup>th</sup> grade without a furlough or exit; and
  - Meet the standards established for automatic transition.

# Automatic Transition (5 to 6)

- Demonstrate remarkably high level of performance.
- Language Arts/Social Studies
  - Score at least a 6 on the Texas Performance Standards Project
  - Score at least a 7 on the compare and contrast literary analysis project over the required reading.
- Mathematics/Science
  - Score at least a 6 on the Texas Performance Standards Project
  - Score at least a 70% correct on the GT Math Assessment

# GT Committees

- All GT placement decisions are made by a committee of educators at the campus.
  - 5 members (administrator and counselor)
  - All trained in gifted education
- If parents are not satisfied with the decision of the committee, they may appeal.

# Universal GT Screening

- All kindergarten students are tested and screened for possible participation in the GT program. (December-February)
- All 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students are tested and screened for possible participation in the GT program. (September-October)

# Applying to Participate

- Students/parents may apply to participate each academic year, but no more than once per academic year.
- Students in kindergarten and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will only be screened once during that year, so there is no application process.
- 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Deadline is Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>.
- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Deadline is September 30<sup>th</sup>.

# GT Application at Secondary Level

- Rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders (current 5<sup>th</sup>). Deadline March 31
- Rising 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders (current 6-7). Deadline January 29
- Secondary GT screening is in the spring and placement begins during the subsequent academic year.

# GT Referrals

- There are occasions when the educational staff at a school may determine that a student is performing at a remarkably high level and refer the student for GT consideration.
- With parental permission, the student would be tested and screened for participation in the GT program.
- No set schedule. Rather, it is done as needed.

# GT Transfer Students

- Students who have actively participated in a school (other than Coppell ISD) that has an established policy for identification and service of gifted students, may apply for admission to the GT program as a transfer GT student.
- When we verify the student was identified and participated in the GT program, we will admit him/her provisionally.

# Testing for the GT Program

- Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)
  - Tests general intellectual ability
  - Timed test
  - Three sections
    - Quantitative
    - Verbal
    - Non-Verbal
- CogAT is not a test that students can prepare for. There is no study guide.

# Testing for the GT Program

- Scantron Performance Series Testing (2-8)
  - Achievement testing in mathematics and reading
  - Adaptive testing
  - Online
- Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS)
  - Achievement testing in mathematics and reading
  - Paper and pencil format

# Alternate Tests

- Students in special populations may also be given a follow-up alternate test to accommodate an exceptionality.
  - English Language Learners
  - Dyslexic
  - Learning Disabled (with an established IEP)
- Twice exceptional learners are identified each year for our programs.

# What Scores are Required?

- National Percentile Ranking
- Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup>: Roughly 97<sup>th</sup> Percentile.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>: Roughly 95<sup>th</sup> percentile.
  
- Elementary CogAT:
  - Standard Age Score (SAS) Composite
- Secondary CogAT:
  - Subscore (SAS) for Quantitative and Verbal

# Scales for Identifying Gifted Students

- SIGS are used for teacher feedback on typical characteristics of gifted performance.
- SIGS is a nationally normed instrument that asks a teacher to rate a specific student in relation to typical students of the same age and/or grade level.

# Authentic Assessment

- One portion of GT screening may include collection of authentic products in the form of a portfolio.
- Some of the works in the portfolio will be standard tasks performed and collected at school.
- Parents may submit additional works as evidence of exceptional performance.

# GT Standards for Work

1. Represents an unusual presentation of an idea
2. Advanced beyond age or grade level
3. Complex or intricate presentation of an idea
4. In-depth understanding of a problem or idea
5. Resourceful and/or clever use of materials or ideas
6. Demonstration of research to support an idea
7. Work that is organized to communicate effectively
8. Evidence of high interest and perseverance on a task

# Furlough from the GT Program

- A furlough is a temporary exit from the GT program based on evidence of an extenuating circumstance.
- Furloughs have a beginning and an end with the expectation that the student will resume GT service at the end of the furlough.
- Approved by the GTC

# Exit from the GT Program

- Based on poor academic performance
- Poor academic performance contradicts the definition of a GT student as one who has a remarkably high level of performance.
- Enrollment in an alternative educational placement.

# Goal of the GT Program

- Students who participate in the gifted and talented program will demonstrate advanced skills in the following areas:
  - Self-directed Learning
  - Critical and Creative Thinking
  - Research Skills on one or more disciplines
  - Communication.
- Students will demonstrate their advanced skills through the development of innovative products and performances which reflect creativity, individuality, and professional-level quality.