AISD Gifted and Talented

The State of Gifted and Talented

January 2018
Facilitated by: Barbara Hinton
District Gifted and Talented Coordinator
Agenda

- What’s it like to be gifted?
- District Initiative Goals and Updates
- AIM program updates
- GATE program updates
- Humanities program updates
- Phoenix/IB program updates
- Resources for parents and students
It’s Not Easy Being Green

- What kids think about being gifted?

Click to watch video “Being Gifted”
Gifted Children's Bill of Rights

You have a right to:
• know about your giftedness.
• learn something new everyday.
• be passionate about your talent area without apologies.
• have an identity beyond your talent area.
• feel good about your accomplishments.
• make mistakes.
• seek guidance in the development of your talent.
• have multiple peer groups and a variety of friends.
• choose which of your talent areas you wish to pursue.
• not to be gifted at everything.

written by Del Siegle, NAGC President, 2007-2009
Mission Statement for Gifted and Talented

- To implement a program that meets the unique social, emotional and intellectual needs of gifted and talented students through the collaboration of students, educators, parents and community members to ensure opportunities for maximum growth and development for life-long success.

- We believe education for gifted students must constantly challenge students in order to develop their potential to become exceptional contributors to society.
District Goals and Initiatives

- Integrated Curriculum
- STEM
- Project Based Learning
- Genius Hour
- Problem Solving
- Problem Based Learning
- Design Thinking
- Interdisciplinary Program
- Rigorous /Relevant Curriculum to Gifted Learners
- Collaboration
- Innovation and Creativity
- Strong Components of Critical Thinking and Creative Exploration
- Divergent Questioning Models
- Self-Selected Learning
- Authentic Assessment
- Real World Connections
- Multi-media Products and Performances
- Independent Research Projects
- Mentorships
- Students in grades 4, 8, and 10-12 also participate in an “independent study” project aligned with TEA (Texas Performance Standards Project)
The Texas Performance Standards Project (TPSP) is a resource for providing differentiated instruction to gifted/talented (G/T) students (and can be used for providing enhanced academic opportunities for all students). The TPSP provides a coherent package of standards, curriculum, and assessments for use in G/T programs from kindergarten through high school.

The goal of the TPSP is to provide resources for G/T teachers and students that allow students to create professional quality work in alignment with the *Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted/Talented Students*. At each grade level, the TPSP provides guidelines for independent learning experiences and research projects that teachers can adapt and use with their G/T students. The projects, or “tasks,” are based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and focus on the foundation content areas of English language arts and reading, mathematics, science, and social studies with interdisciplinary connections.

In Allen, our students participate in TPSP at grades 4, 8 and high school.
At Camp Invention, we foster BIG ideas! As children dream, build and make discoveries, they will have a chance to invent a prototype from scratch and explore geometry from a new angle when they create origami flight models during team-building exercises. Their inventiveness will come to life while spending time in the innovation laboratory, investigating circuits and taking on a nature-inspired design challenge.

Grades 1-6
June 18-22, 2018
Registration opens February 6, 2018
What’s going on in AIM?

- The AIM curriculum challenges students to develop and apply their talents through a variety of integrated, multidisciplinary learning activities and projects. AIM classroom activities focus on logic, problem solving, higher order thinking skills, critical and creative thinking, and advanced academics.

- Elementary program provides students opportunities in Language Arts and Social Studies through an integrated content specific curriculum at each grade level. Students are also provided opportunities to explore advanced math and science and STEM integration.

- Foundation frameworks Center for Gifted Education ~ College of William and Mary

Activating Inquisitive Minds
PBL Science

- Problem Solving
- Innovation
- Critical/Creative Thinking
- STEM
- Experimental Design
- Real World
- Inquiry

Grade 1-2: What a Find!
Grade 1-2: Where’s the Beach?
Grade 3: Electricity City
Grade 5: Something Fishy
Grade 6: No Quick Fix
PBL in Action

Exploring Problem Based Learning
Marion 1st & 2nd Grade-
Students explored and experimented with the concept of erosion through a hands-on ‘stream trailer’ experience from the City of Allen. They created different paths and ways for water to travel in order to gather more knowledge on our way to solve our “Where’s the Beach?” PBL.
Exploring Challenges with STEM
Humanities

The William & Mary social studies units emphasize concept development, critical thinking, and primary source analysis within the context of high level content and reflect the focus of national standards in social studies on historical thinking and research and on the integration of major concepts across disciplines.

**William & Mary social studies units provide:**

- Advanced content through the use of primary source documents
- Strategies that build critical thinking, conceptual thinking, and content learning skills
- Ways to analyze events and situations from a variety of viewpoints

Grade 1-2: Ancient Egypt/Ancient China
Grade 3: Ancient Greece
Grade 4: TPSP Interdisciplinary
Grade 5: Civil War
Grade 6: 1920’s and 1930’s
Humanities in Action

Civil War

Ancient Civilizations

Immigration
Art In History creates hands-on, brain-based kits that include comprehensive lessons and activities which are aligned to Standards for Grades 3-12. Each unit is developed and unified around a historically significant artifact, time period, or piece of art that is substantially tied to many subjects (ELA, Literacy, Math, Social Studies, and Fine Arts).
Students Showcase Greek Pottery
Technology Integration

Google Portfolios

Makey Makey

Bloxels
Thanks Allen Gifted

- Each AIM and GATE classroom across the district was funded for access to Byrdseed TV which offers many high level gifted curricular opportunities.
- Byrdseed is a place dedicated to differentiating instruction for high-level learners. Learn new ideas, share what you know, and grow as an educator.
What’s going on at the GATE ACADEMY?

The GATE Academy provides compacted, enriched curriculum to 276 identified gifted students in our district, grades 1-6. The students learn grade level objectives through Project Based Learning and have opportunities for additional enrichment to include Makerspace, STEAM, and Genius Hour activities.
Project Based Learning allows for cross curricular explorations of grade level concepts and requires students to work collaboratively, using critical thinking and creativity.

Examples of recent PBLs include:

- **GATE 1st graders** learned about economics and personal financial literacy through a PBL called "Calling All Consumers". Students learned about the roles of producers and consumers in the marketplace. They created a town that showed the exchange of goods and services.

- **GATE 4th graders** have just completed a PBL unit on patterns of change, including seasons, shadows, tides, and moon phases. They chose a location around the world, researched the information, and created a multi-media presentation to share with the class.
Genius Hour is a time allotted to students to pursue their passions and interests. It is a time for independent research and creation. Students at GATE have recently learned to knit, raise funds for hurricane victims, and have learned about this history of theater. This on-going project allows for flexibility, teaches responsibility, and encourages creativity in presentation formats. The kids love sharing all they’ve discovered!
Makerspace is a place where students can gather to create, invent, tinker, explore and discover using a variety of tools and materials. At GATE we include building materials such as Keva and Legos, consumable materials such as clay, cardboard, and popsicle sticks, and technology such as Ollies, Spheros and Ozobots.

Examples of Makerspace at GATE:

GATE 2nd graders went through many scaffolding activities to learn and investigate using light, sound and heat energy. Using their knowledge they were presented with a STEAM Challenge to research the 3 main types of musical instruments from the wind, percussion and string families and then design and build a working instrument from each family in the Makerspace lab. Then they had to write a rap or song that teaches the 3 main types of energy (light, sound and heat) and present and share with other classes.
What’s going on in Humanities?

- Humanities GT 7th/8th is a two period course for identified Gifted and Talented students designed to meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of the gifted learner. This course grants credit in both history and English/Language Arts by integrating language arts and Texas history in seventh and U.S. History in eighth grade with fine arts through student-centered chronological thematic units of study. Through literary analysis, composition, and multimedia communication skills, students will explore and reflect on the political, social, and economic issues that have shaped our society and defined our roles as citizens.
Mock trial begins in Humanities English with the honorable Judge Jackson presiding!

SharkHour finalist head to iFLY

Civil War Fair

TPSP 8th Grade
RETOOL REFINE EXPAND

A LOOK AT GT MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAMMING AND OPTIONS
GT Middle
School Programming

- **Retool and Refine** GT Humanities 7\(^{th}\) and 8\(^{th}\)
  - Integration of Social Studies and English
  - Collaboration
  - Compacting course TEKS
  - Learning Environment
  - GT Extensions (Genius Hour, PBL)
  - GT Nature and Needs

- **Retool and Refine** GT Reading 7\(^{th}\)
  - Leadership in Literacy
  - GT Extensions (Genius Hour, PBL)
  - GT Nature and Needs

- All current GATE/AIM 6\(^{th}\) grade will be placed into GT Humanities 7\(^{th}\) and GT Reading 7\(^{th}\).

- Current GT Humanities 7\(^{th}\) will move forward to GT Humanities 8\(^{th}\).
NEW GT Middle School Programming Option

- Expansion of Services
- GT Science 7th and 8th
  - Optional for identified students (or PreAP, Science 7/8)
  - Compacting of core Science 7th and 8th
- Depth and Complexity
- Experimental Design
- GT Extensions
  - PBL
  - STEM
  - Makerspace

GT Science will be optional, self-select for identified gifted students.
What’s going on in Phoenix?

- The Phoenix Program is a humanities-based curriculum designed to meet the social, emotional and intellectual needs of identified gifted and talented students in the English classroom. This course invests in creating a community of scholars who will embark on a study of themes and ideas centered on *The Human Experience* with academic emphasis placed on critical and analytical reading and writing, research skills, and the development of a personal writing style.

- It is a designated Advanced Placement course which prepares students to take the AP English Literature and Composition exam in May of their senior year.
Phoenix – “Books We Love”
Phoenix ~
Socratic Seminars
Student led discussions
Escape the Bus!

Exploration and Collaboration in Phoenix
What’s Going on in IB/GT English?

- IB/GT Language and Literature HL 11th and 12th grade students engage in a two year study of multiple genres, world literature, non-fiction, and multiple text types. The intent of this course is to promote global understanding and empathy.

- IB Assessments focus on the written and oral articulation of knowledge, with multiple IB Assessments over the two year course and two IB exams at the end of year two.

- IB/GT requires a summer reading assignment.

International Baccalaureate (IB)
IB Simulation and “White Elephant Exchange”
Resources and Sites for Parents and Students

RESOURCES:

NAGC
http://www.nagc.org/
http://www.nagc.org/resources-publications/resources-parents

TAGT
http://txgifted.org/
http://www.txgifted.org/parents

48 Essential Links for the Parents of Gifted Children
THANK YOU

- Barbara.Hinton@allenisd.org
- Gifted@allenisd.org
- https://www.allenisd.org/Page/291
Allen Gifted Board 2017-2018

- President – Anju Bisht
- VP Programs – Charlotte Taylor
- Treasurer – Ping Xiong
- VP Communications – Becky Buehner
- VP Programs at Large – John Garcia
- Secretary – OPEN
- Allen ISD Liason – Jessica Gitzinger
So far this year ...

- We provided Byrdseed.TV subscription for all AIM teachers
- and
- Will provide STE(A)M Program Scholarships to 3 Elementary Schools and 3 Middle Schools.
- Will provide 23 AGILE Summer Camp Scholarships
STE(A)M Program Scholarships:

- Does your Elementary or Middle school have an STE(A)M program?
- If yes, your program coach/teacher can apply for STE(A)M scholarship by sending an application to allengifted@gmail.com
- 3 STE(A)M Program Scholarships are available for Elementary Schools
- 3 STE(A)M Program Scholarships are available for Middle Schools
UTD Coding and Robotics:

- Sign up forms are now active at https://allengifted.membershiptoolkit.com/home
- Registration for these courses will close on January 31st
- Start date is February 5th
Keep in touch!

- **Website:**
  http://allengifted.org

- **Facebook:**
  https://www.facebook.com/Allen-Gifted-129402063804075/

- **Instagram:**
  allengifted

- **Contact Email:**
  allengifted@gmail.com

- **Membership website:**
  https://allengifted.membershiptoolkit.com/home
Coming soon!

- May 15: 2nd speaker event with Perot Tech Truck
- and
- STE(A)M company tours