

Columbus Independent School District Gifted and Talented Program Program Description

The Gifted and Talented (GT) curriculum is based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for each grade level. This is an aligned curriculum in which GT Faculty expand the appropriate grade level TEKS and emphasize the depth and complexity for specific student objectives. Faculty maintains documentation of accommodations used with individual students in the district's Documentation Folder.

Kindergarten – Second Grade

Kindergarten

The Kindergarten teachers will collaborate with the GT teacher to provide services for students. The GT teacher will meet with all the kindergarten students that are identified as TALENT POOL participants and students begin receiving services at the beginning of 2nd semester.

FIRST GRADE

First Grade Talent Pool students meet with the GT teacher who will utilize a thematic based instructional approach for the following units of study:

- *WHO AM I –self awareness/family
- *OWLS
- *OCEANS-“The Deep Blue Sea”
- *VOLCANOES
- *CHARACTER EDUCATION
- *CAREERS
- *ART –line patterns/straws
- *WEIRD WEATHER –Storms

Student activities throughout the year include: guest speakers, guest readers, mini-trips, and writing activities that incorporate math, science, computer, reading, social studies, and art. Selected Torrence creative activities will also be used to increase right-brain thinking and general creativity.

SECOND GRADE

Second Grade Talent Pool students meet with the GT teacher who will utilize a thematic based instructional approach for the following units of study:

- ❖ FRIENDSHIP – explore characteristics of friendship thru literature
- ❖ SPIDERS/INSECTS – conduct research, create projects and oral presentations, view artifacts
- ❖ FANTASY – read MAGIC TREE HOUSE, fantasy literature
- ❖ ADVERSITY – read BOXCAR CHILDREN, literature on overcoming obstacles
- ❖ CHARACTER EDUCATION – read stories and perform plays
- ❖ EXTINCT ANIMALS – conduct research, present oral reports and art work
- ❖ TORRENCE CREATIVE Art Activities – write a story, create an unusual picture
- ❖ JUNGLES/RAINFOREST – read stories and participate in activities that reinforce math and fine art genres

The following pieces of literature will be studied as a venue to develop and expand reading depth involving the four elements of a story

- *Dandelion by Dan Freeman – exploring ourselves and our families
- *The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein – a look at unconditional love
- *The Biggest Bear by Lynn Ward – studies friendship between children and their pets
- *Now One Foot, Not the Other by Tomie de Paola – explores feeling and relationships between grandparents and grandchildren

Student activities throughout the year include: guest speakers, guest readers, mini field trips, play presentations, art appreciation, show and tell, writing stories, UIL participation, nature walks, computer research, a spelling bee, Monster Math, problem solving, critical thinking activities, and

developing story telling skills thru the study of literature. Selected Torrance creative activities will also be used to increase right-brain thinking and general creativity.

Third – Fifth Grade:

Third, Fourth and Fifth Grade GT identified students meet with the Challenge class where they will engage in activities such as: recycling, UIL participation, visits with community leaders, field trips, community service projects, character education initiatives, current event studies, critical thinking scenarios, Torrance creative activities, area competitive contests in writing and research. They will also demonstrate skills in: self-directed learning, thinking, research, and communication through projects that reflect individuality and creativity and are advanced in relation to students of similar age, experience, or environment. Guided instruction will take place throughout the year.

THIRD GRADE GT/CHALLENGE

Student study/research/theme activities include:

- ❖ ARTS AND ARTISTS – Diego Rivera, Claes Oldenburg, Horace Pippin and other various famous artists; visit the Live Oak Art Center to view various styles of art exhibits
- ❖ SCIENCE – Matter and the Solar System: creating a PowerPoint presentation; developing a game and presenting it to the class with internet researched facts
- ❖ NUTRITION – Field trip to HEB: using math and reading skills, career exploration, making healthy choices, menu planning, social skills, and decision-making
- ❖ WRITING – Elements of stories using children’s, model by writing about selected topics and using story starts
- ❖ MATH –Mental and Monster Math, problem solving and number sense
- ❖ LITERATURE – Read fiction/novel Wayside School is Falling Down, during a non-fiction unit of study students will read Titanic and a Christmas around the world study will incorporate art, cultural facts, props, costumes, and healthy food from that area of the world
- ❖ THEATER ARTS –Study different aspects of creating a theatrical production and present plays for other students, an outside audience, and community nursing homes. A springtime Talent Show will showcase student talents.

FOURTH GRADE GT/CHALLENGE

Student study/research/theme activities include:

- ❖ ARTS AND ARTISTS –Marc Chagall, Vincent van Gogh, Sonia Delaunay and other famous artists; visit the Live Oak Art Center to view various styles of art exhibits; student art projects during the year will include: weaving, paper maché masks, cartooning techniques, and participation in competitive art contests
- ❖ SCIENCE –Various experiments with: propulsion, electric circuits, observing, classifying, inferring, magnets and magnetic fields; students will video and demonstrate self-selected experiments by making advertisements of their inventions and products
- ❖ WRITING – Read various examples of poetry; study of newspaper sections and the creation of a class newspaper inclusive of advertisements; scripting and performing a commercial; plan a “Perfect School” project; read Small Steps to discuss first person writing, health, empathy
- ❖ MATH – Mental and Monster Math, problem solving and number sense
- ❖ THEATER ARTS – Study different aspects of creating a theatrical production and present plays for other students, an outside audience, and community nursing homes. A springtime Talent Show will showcase student talents.
- ❖ CONTEST PARTICIPATION –Daughters of the American Revolution and Soil and Water Conservation District

FIFTH GRADE GT/CHALLENGE

Student study/research/theme activities include:

- ❖ ENRICHMENT and RELEVANCE - science, math, writing, and reading
- ❖ RESEARCH – study famous Scientists and present oral reports/presentations using props, posters, etc.; Use library or Internet reference materials and make a brochure on the life of the person selected
- ❖ SCIENCE -Study careers in science using the “ologist/ist” selection (geologist, astrologist, etc.); perform experiments involving mixtures, matter, magnets, chemical changes, electric circuits; practice safety in a science lab ; conduct various experiments in groups to illustrate various strands of Science
- ❖ COMMUNITY SERVICES - visit the local hospital, LCRA, Recycling Center, HEB, Fire Station, and Live Oak Art Center to enrich understanding of community resources; TEKS will be correlated as individually applicable (a journal will be kept)
- ❖ READ - Number the Stars by Lois Lowry to study story elements and discuss solar system, World War I and II, empathy and writing from the first person perspective; hear a guest speaker on World Wars, the Holocaust, and significant events of the previous century
- ❖ READ: Bridge to Terabithia, to discuss first person perspective and construct a bridge with a written “epitaph”
- ❖ SPACE LAB - Students will assist in the lab for CES students; study constellations, solar systems, and the phases of the moon
- ❖ DEBATE: “Ghosts” real or not-real; research teams, guest speakers, etc. Activities to prove their “side/belief” of the debate. Read fiction novel.
- ❖ MATH CONTEST –Local competition between students; review of all math skills learned thru beginning of fifth grade.
- ❖ CONTEST PARTICIPATION – Soil and Water Conservation District, Fire Department, Flag Day, Arbor Day and Garden Club
- ❖ WATER TESTING –Samples from home are collected and tested through the Soil and Water Conservation District office and a program on water properties is given
- ❖ THEATER ARTS –Perform a TEKS subject play for an audience; Read to the Pre-K and K classes

In addition to meeting and working with Challenge students, third, fourth and fifth grade GT students meet together once a month for breakfast and to participate in activities that allow cooperative and interdependent endeavors with fellow identified peers. During “The Breakfast Club” meetings, students discuss local, state, and national current events, listen to guest speakers and work toward collaboratively toward completion of the Texas Performance Standards Projects. One Breakfast Club meeting each year will include parents as class participants. GT identified students will also take one field trip a year in addition to the ones taken with the Challenge class.

Sixth – Eighth Grade:

The sixth, seventh and eighth GT program services will take place during a 7th and 8th grade GT Humanities Class and a 6th grade GT Reading Class. Identified students will participate in the Texas Performance Standards during these classes while being provided enrichment opportunities that are unique to their areas of advanced abilities. They will develop in-depth products that reflect individual interests, research, thinking and advanced communication skills.

GT Students will be able to participate and explore a variety of activities though a three-year cycle of planned field trips. GT identified students will be taken on two field trips annually. These trips will be tied to grade level TEKS and the Texas Performance Standards.

Ninth – Twelve Grade

High School GT students will be provided the opportunity to participate in various assemblies, activities that incorporate the Texas Performance Standards, field trips and are given access to individual assistance in the academic lab.

In addition, these students are counseled regarding participation in the district's dual credit/concurrent enrollment program with Blinn College and Wharton County Junior College. The high school course offering book can be referenced for additional information.

The following courses are offered for **dual credit** and provide services to GT students:

ECON 2301	Principles of Economics (Macro)	PHYS 1401	College Physics I
ECON 2302	Principles of Economics (Micro)	PHYS 1402	College Physics II
ENGL 1301	Composition and Rhetoric	GOVT 2301	American Government (Federal)
ENGL 1302	Composition and Introduction to Literature	HIST 1301	United States History I
SPAN 2311	Intermediate Spanish I	HIST 1302	United States History II
SPAN 2312	Intermediate Spanish II	SPCH 1321	Business and Professional Speaking
BIO 1406	General Biology I	SPCH 1315	Business and Professional Speaking
BIOL 1407	General Biology II	SOCI 1301	Introduction to Sociology
CHEM 1405	Introduction to Chemistry 1	GOVT 2301	American Government
CHEM 1411	General Chemistry I	FMKT 1301	Floral Design
CHEM 1412	General Chemistry II	WLDG2447	Advanced Welding
		PSYC 2301	Introduction to General Psychology

**course availability may vary due to minimum size requirements and the insertion of new courses*

GT students can choose to participate in the following **advanced classes** in which they will receive differentiated instruction to increase the rigor of the mandated curriculum:

Approx. Grade Level	English	Math	Science	Social Studies	Fine Arts	Foreign Language
9 th	Pre-AP English I	Pre-AP Geometry	Pre-AP Biology	Pre-AP World Geography		
10 th	Pre-AP English II	Pre-AP Algebra II	Pre-AP Chemistry	Pre-AP World History		
11 th	AP English III	Pre-AP Pre-Calculus	AP Biology	AP U.S. History	Pre-AP Studio Art	Pre-AP Spanish III
12 th	AP English IV	AP Calculus	Pre-AP Physics	AP Government	AP Studio Art	AP Spanish III
11 th – 12 th	Independent Study in English		AP Physics			
11 th – 12 th			AP Chemistry			