Gifted and Talented Information
For Parents of Kindergarten Students
FISD Gifted Program

- TEA states: A "Gifted and Talented" student is a child or youth who performs at or shows the potential for performing at a remarkably high level of accomplishment when compared to others of the same age, experience, or environment and who exhibits high performance capability in an intellectual, creative, or artistic area, possesses an unusual capacity for leadership, or excels in a specific academic field.

- All school districts in Texas follow the same TEA guidelines, but each district is able to determine their identification criteria, as well as the types of services provided.

- Frisco ISD identifies students based on their General Intellectual Abilities (GIA). We don’t identify students based on specific subject aptitudes.
FISD Gifted Program

- The Elementary QUEST program is a pullout program that serves the needs of gifted students in Frisco ISD.

- The QUEST program allows our identified Kindergarten students the opportunity to work together weekly with the campus GT teacher.

- The QUEST curriculum helps students develop and apply their strengths through a variety of multidisciplinary learning activities and projects.

- During QUEST pullout sessions, students focus on problem solving and creative/critical thinking skills.
All Frisco ISD Kindergarten teachers are required to complete 30 clock hours of gifted and talented training in the following areas:

- Nature and Needs of GT students
- Identification and Assessment of GT students
- Social and Emotional Needs of GT students
- Instructional Strategies for GT students
- Differentiated Curriculum for GT students
Referral Process for the FISD Gifted Program

- Parents, teachers, administrators, counselors, or community members may refer a child for testing during the designated referral window.
Referral Process for the FISD Gifted Program

- Kindergarten students may be referred for screening during the district wide October/November window.

- Informational flyers will be sent home with all Kindergarten students in October letting parents know when the referral window begins and ends.

- No referral packets will be accepted after 4:00 PM on the last day of the referral window.
Referral Process for the FISD Gifted Program

- We encourage you to talk to your child’s teacher if you are considering having your child go through the GT screening process. He/She will be able to provide a great deal of insight about your child’s behavioral and social skills at school.

- Talk to the teacher about:
  - Your child’s specific skill development
  - Your child’s classroom performance
  - Your child’s maturity level
Referral Process for the FISD Gifted Program

- The following slide lists characteristics typical of a gifted learner. We encourage you to read through it to become familiar with what research has indicated as gifted attributes.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>A High Achiever...</strong></th>
<th><strong>A Gifted Learner...</strong></th>
<th><strong>A Creative Thinker...</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Remembers the answers.</td>
<td>Poses unforeseen questions.</td>
<td>Sees exceptions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is attentive.</td>
<td>Is selectively mentally engaged.</td>
<td>Daydreams; may seem off task.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generates advanced ideas.</td>
<td>Generates complex, abstract ideas.</td>
<td>Overflows with ideas, many of which will never be developed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Works hard to achieve.</td>
<td>Knows without working hard.</td>
<td>Plays with ideas and concepts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Answer the questions in detail.</td>
<td>Ponders with depth and multiple perspectives.</td>
<td>Injects new possibilities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Performs at the top of the group.</td>
<td>Is beyond the group.</td>
<td>Is in own group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responds with interest and opinions.</td>
<td>Exhibits feelings and opinions from multiple perspectives.</td>
<td>Shares bizarre, sometimes conflicting opinions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learns with ease.</td>
<td>Already knows.</td>
<td>Questions: What if...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needs 6 to 8 repetitions to master.</td>
<td>Needs 1 to 3 repetitions to master.</td>
<td>Questions the need for mastery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehends at a high level.</td>
<td>Comprehends in-depth, complex ideas.</td>
<td>Overflows with ideas--many of which will never be developed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enjoys the company of age peers.</td>
<td>Prefers the company of intellectual peers.</td>
<td>Prefers the company of creative peers but often works alone.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grasps the meaning.</td>
<td>Infers and connects concepts.</td>
<td>Makes mental leaps: Aha!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completes assignments on time.</td>
<td>Initiates projects and extensions of assignments.</td>
<td>Initiates more projects that will ever be completed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is accurate and complete.</td>
<td>Is original and continually developing.</td>
<td>Is original and continually developing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absorbs information.</td>
<td>Manipulates information.</td>
<td>Improvises.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is a technician with expertise in a field.</td>
<td>Is an expert who understands abstract ideas beyond the field.</td>
<td>Is an inventor and idea generator.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorizes well.</td>
<td>Guesses and infers well.</td>
<td>Creates and brainstorms well.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is highly alert and observant.</td>
<td>Anticipates and relates observations.</td>
<td>Is intuitive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gets A's.</td>
<td>May not be motivated by grades.</td>
<td>May not be motivated by grades.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is able.</td>
<td>Is intellectual.</td>
<td>Is idiosyncratic.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Referral Process for the FISD Gifted Program

How to request a referral packet:

- Staff from the Elementary GT Department will have referral packets available for distribution to parents of Kindergarten students. This event will occur in the evening at a designated FISD campus in October. (Please check the GT website and the Kindergarten flyer for the exact time and location.)

- If you are unable to pick up a referral packet at this designated evening event, please contact the GT Teacher on your campus during the referral window dates to request a packet.
Referral Process for the FISD Gifted Program

- The referral packet includes:
  
  - Referral Form
    - Student information
    - Person nominating
    - Reason for nomination
    - Permission for testing
  
  - Parent Inventory
    - Assessment of your child’s behavioral characteristics ranked on a 1-5 scale
    - Anecdotal information about your child
Please be as detailed and specific as possible.
Please be as detailed and specific as possible.
All Kindergarten students in FISD completed an analytical screening product with their classroom teacher in October.

We generally recommend that Kindergarten students who were able to score at least 11 out of 13 on the analytical product, may potentially be good candidates for GT screening. However, this product score does not guarantee that a child will do well on the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT).
Testing Process for the FISD Gifted Program

Objective Screening

Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)
- Verbal
- Quantitative
- Non-verbal
- Composite Standard Age Score
Testing Process for the FISD Gifted Program

- The CogAT is given in a small group setting over several days. The testing window is in November and December, but days will vary from campus to campus.

- All student tests will be sent to Riverside Publishing Company to be scored and normed.

- Each CogAT is normed specifically for a child’s age.

- Parents will be notified by mail in January about their child’s CogAT screening results.
Testing Process for the FISD Gifted Program

- To continue the screening process, students must meet the CogAT criteria designated for their grade level.

- CogAT criteria for Kindergarten:
  To meet criteria on the CogAT a student must score a 126 Standard Age Score (SAS) or higher on any 2 of the 4 CogAT sections: Verbal, Quantitative, Non-Verbal, or Composite.

- CogAT scores are reported on a scale of 50 - 150, with a score of 100 representing the national average.
Testing Process for the FISD Gifted Program

Students who meet the initial CogAT criteria will also take the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS). This Achievement tests consists of the following sections:

- Vocabulary
- Math
- Language Arts
- Composite

- Reading skills are **not** tested for Kindergarten students.
Testing Process for the FISD Gifted Program

- The ITBS is given in a small group setting over several days. The testing window is in January and February, but days will vary from campus to campus.

- All student tests will be sent to Riverside Publishing Company to be scored and normed.

- The ITBS is normed based on the time of year that the test is administered.
Testing Process for the FISD Gifted Program

- ITBS criteria for Kindergarten:
  To meet criteria on the ITBS a student must score a 92% or higher on any 2 of the 4 ITBS sections: Vocabulary, Language, Math or Composite.

- Achievement scores are reported in national percentiles of 1% - 99%, with a score of the 50th percentile representing the national average.
Testing Process for the FISD Gifted Program

Additional Screening Information

Products

- Analytical Product (Completed in the classroom in October)
- Creativity Product (Completed by GT teacher on campus)

Inventory Forms

- Parent Inventory (Completed during the referral process)
- Educator Inventory (Completed by classroom teacher during the screening process)
Identification Process for the FISD Gifted Program

- All screening information is recorded on a student identification profile.

- The District GT Screening Committee will review all student identification profiles to determine whether or not a student meets the established district criteria.

- Parents will be notified by mail of the committee’s placement recommendations.
Thank you for viewing our informational power point. Please feel free to contact your campus GT Teacher if you have any further questions. (Contact information may be found on the main page of the GT website.)

We hope that your child has a wonderful year in Frisco ISD!