

## ***Gifted and Talented Program Grades 6-8***

Gifted students in grades 6 - 8 are served by a team of specially trained teachers who have the required GT hours and advanced content training.

### ***Middle School Service Design (5-6)***

- Grade 6 Pre-AP classes designed to differentiate for gifted learners: Pre-AP ELA, Pre-AP math, Pre-AP science, and Pre-AP social studies
- Differentiated instruction required of all classroom teachers who serve GT students
- Flexible grouping with GT peers for research and other enrichment opportunities
- Grades 5 and 6 required participation in:
  - Texas Performance Standards Project (TPSP) or science fair
  - Academic or performance-based competition offered (e.g., music, theater, art, athletics)
  - Enrollment in an advanced academic class

### ***Junior High Service Design (7-8)***

- Pre-AP classes designed to differentiate for gifted learners: Pre-AP ELA, Pre-AP math, Pre-AP science, and Pre-AP social studies
- Algebra I for high school credits offered, (Gr. 8)
- Differentiated instruction required of all classroom teachers who serve GT students
- Flexible grouping with GT peers for research and other enrichment opportunities
- Grades 7 and 8 required participation in:
  - TPSP, History Fair or Science Fair
  - Academic or performance-based competition offered (e.g., music, theater, art, athletics)
  - Enrollment in an advanced academic class (e.g., Pre-AP, high school credit course)

## ***Gifted and Talented High School Program***

Gifted students in grades 9-12 are served in Pre-AP and AP classes in English, math, social sciences, science, art, music, and foreign language by teachers with specialized training, including the required gifted and talented training. Students are offered opportunities to earn the Distinguished Achievement Program seal at graduation.

Opportunities to develop advanced technology skills are provided in a variety of classes.

Award winning music, drama, and fine arts programs offer opportunities for talent and creative development.

### ***High School Service Design***

- Identified AP/PreAP Teachers
- Differentiated instruction required by classroom teachers who serve GT students
- Pre-AP and AP classes designed to differentiate for GT students
- UIL Competition - (academic and performance)
- Distinguished Achievement Program
- Acceleration via distance learning (TxVSN, GradPoint)
- GT students - Required participation in a minimum of three or more of the following:
  - Advanced academic class (Pre-AP, AP)
  - Academic competition
  - Performance-based/UIL competition (e.g., music, theater, art, athletics)
  - Service learning project (to be considered case-by case and approved by committee of GT Lead Teachers)

*Dickinson Independent  
School District*

# ***Gifted and Talented Program***



*Envision. Enlighten. Empower.*

## *Definition of Gifted*

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

TEC §29.121

## *Philosophy*

The Dickinson Independent School district recognizes that gifted students have special needs and abilities which must be addressed. Gifted programs will provide identified students with opportunities beyond the regular curriculum to broaden their knowledge, skills, and experiences. These programs will provide opportunities for students to explore their unique potential and enable them to make positive contributions to society. Emphasis will be on developing independent, self-directed learners by encouraging and supporting in-depth learning and divergent and creative thinking.

## *Goal for Services for Gifted Students*

Students who participate in services designed for gifted students will demonstrate skills in self-directed learning, thinking, research, and communication as evidenced by the development of innovative products and performances that reflect individuality and creativity and are advanced in relation to students of similar age, experience, or environment. High school graduates who have participated in services for gifted students will have produced products and performances of professional quality as part of their program services.

## *Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted/Talented Students, 2009*

[www.tea.state.tx.us](http://www.tea.state.tx.us)

**For more information about the DISD G/T Program, contact:**

**Lee Courville, Director of Elementary Programs  
281-229-6035**

**Dr. Vonda Washington, Director of Secondary Programs  
281-229-6034**

## *Who can participate?*

Any student, grades K-12, enrolled in Dickinson Independent School District is eligible for screening and placement in the Gifted and Talented program if the eligibility requirements are met.

## *How are students referred for participation?*

- Teachers, counselors, and administrators can refer students based on observed characteristics.
- Students can nominate themselves.
- Parents can request that a student be considered.
- All kindergarten, second and eighth grade students are screened.

## *What are the requirements?*

To be eligible for the DISD Gifted and Talented program, the student must show significant success with Quantitative and Qualitative measures according to the DISD GT Matrix.

## *What about transfer students?*

Out-of-district transfer students can participate if they meet the DISD identification criteria. GT student services automatically transfer from one DISD campus to another.

## *Who makes the decision?*

All decisions regarding the placement of students in the Gifted and Talented program are made at the district level by the GT Placement Committee consisting of district administrators and Curriculum Specialists who each have their 30 core hours of GT Training.

## *Characteristics we look for:*

Inquisitive - The student shows curiosity and inner drive for thorough, independent understanding; typically asks penetrating intellectual questions, and demonstrates an extensive memory.

Perspective - The student displays an ability to understand and incorporate unexpected or unusual points of view through oral language, writing, manipulatives and/or art.

Analytical Thinking - The student demonstrates an ability to discern components of a whole and strives to determine relationships and patterns in procedures, experiences, ideas, and/or objects. The student may not be “organized”, yet enjoys organizing and planning events and procedures.

Advanced Language - The student unassumingly and appropriately displays an advanced vocabulary and an ability to use more complex language effectively in a variety of situations and naturally uses similes, metaphors and analogies to express relationships.

Sense of Humor - The student demonstrates understanding of higher levels of humor either through production of original jokes, riddles, puns, or other humorous effects or through understanding the subtle humor of others.

Sensitivity - The student is intensely sensitive to the needs of others, demonstrates a strong sense of justice, and sets high standards for self and others.

## *Gifted and Talented Program Grades K-4*

In grades K-4, identified students are served at their individual campus within the clustered classroom settings by teachers who have the required GT training. In grades 1-4, students continue to develop creative and productive thinking and innovative products. A differentiated curriculum in the four content areas is aimed at developing higher level thinking skills and processes. Acceleration is encouraged when appropriate.

## *Elementary Service Design*

- GT students clustered in classrooms with a GT trained teacher
- Differentiated instruction required of classroom teachers servicing GT students
- Flexible scheduling for GT peers for research and other enrichment activities/instruction
- Required participation in Texas Performance Standards Project (TPSP) or science fair in grades 1 – 4
- Teacher planning meetings to consider enrichment, modification and acceleration for GT students