Lake Travis ISD

Gifted and Talented/Discovery Information Meeting
A little humor

“I can suck pudding up my nose and blow it out the corner of my eye, but they still won’t put me in the gifted class at school!”
Gifted - so much more than just *smart* kids

Take a minute to watch this [video](#) from Ian Byrd. He is an advocate for gifted children and explains the importance of their social/emotional needs.
State Goal for Services for Gifted Student

- Students who participate in services designed for gifted students will demonstrate skill 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 advance in relation to students of similar age, experience, or environment.
Elementary Discovery Program

- Program is based on intellectual ability, creativity and advanced academic achievement.
- Needs based program
- Thematic curriculum addressing depth and complexity
- GT teachers provide: pull out program, classroom enrichment, and resources for teachers
- Addresses the four core areas:
  - Language Arts
  - Math
  - Social Studies
  - Science
Middle School Discovery Program

➢ Based on the Institutes of Study at the high school.
➢ Elective course for GT students only
➢ Project based
➢ Creative problem solving
➢ Enrichment
Middle School Discovery Program...

➢ Also emphasizes
  ● Creative Thinking
  ● Problem-Solving
  ● Critical Thinking skills
  ● Research Skills
  ● Self-Directed Learning
  ● Leadership

➢ Students who are identified as Gifted and Talented remain in the program until graduation (unless placed on furlough or are exited due to insufficient academic performance).
High School Program

➢ GT students are served through group and individualized instruction in the classroom as well as through special programs.

➢ These special programs include extension of the regular classroom program, accelerated pacing, enrichment activities, specially designed courses, Pre-AP and AP classes, dual credit coursework, and exams for acceleration.
Identifying levels of giftedness

All gifted students are not the same, or need the same services.
◆ 68% of children score between 85-115
◆ 14% of children score between 115-130
◆ Approximately 2% of children score 130 or above
◆ This is just ONE measure and is part of the identification. This score alone does not include or exclude any candidate
Identification

- Looking for students who score in the top 5% nationally
- Tests measure aptitude, creativity, and achievement
- The profile generated from the identification process will show a preponderance of evidence that gifted services are needed
- No single indicator can include or exclude a student from placement
Traits of gifted and creative learners

- Intensity
- Needs 1-3 repetitions for mastery
- Likes to question
- Answers with depth and understanding
- Makes connections easily
- Guesses well
- Innovative
- Curious
- Idea generator
- Beyond the group
What Identifies a Student as Gifted?

- Above Average Ability
- Task Commitment
- Creativity
Is testing right for your child?

➢ Consider prior testing
➢ Success in school
➢ Maturity
➢ Test stamina
➢ Does the program match your child’s needs?
Referral Process

- Submit a Discovery Referral Form by the end of the first grading period.
- Testing
  - Aptitude
  - Achievement
  - Creativity
  - Teacher Observation Feedback
- Superior scores in 3 of 4 areas qualifies for gifted programming
- Committee Review
- Notification
QUESTIONS?