



Curriculum and Instruction Division
Advanced Academic Services

Campus: _____

Date of Testing: _____

Phone: _____

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

Middle School Gifted and Talented Courses: Humanities, GT Advanced Math, Science Technology

The El Paso Independent School District will begin identification procedures for the grades 6-8 gifted and talented programs. Any student in grades 5-8 may be nominated by a parent, teacher, or other concerned individual to participate in the screening process. Students will be identified by using a combination of five screening criteria:

- specific classroom activities;
- teacher observation log;
- parent checklist;
- student grades; and
- standardized testing measures.

A campus GT Screening Committee reviews and evaluates all five of the screening criteria to determine whether the nominated student qualifies as gifted, per state and local policy. Once qualified, the committee will determine appropriate course placement for each student. Course placement is based on an Evaluation of Academic Performance that includes:

- the student's grade point average in the core content areas;
- performance on most recent state tests;
- task commitment; and
- the results of a nationally-normed achievement test.

The appeal process is in place for students not meeting any of the procedures as outlined above.

The Humanities program is built around the examination of universal themes and integrates the study of history, literature, writing, and the fine arts. The curriculum is aligned to the state standards and delivered using Dr. Sandra Kaplan's Model of Depth and Complexity through the National Association for Gifted Children's Parallel Curriculums. Students are provided opportunities to develop sophisticated products and presentations.

The GT Advanced Math courses (6th grade through 8th grade Algebra I) are accelerated and differentiated through depth and complexity with opportunities for students to develop advanced-level math products and presentations. To ensure acceleration and thorough delivery of standards, the curriculum compresses four years of math TEKS into three years of instruction.

The Science Technology program focuses on the state and national science standards. Hands-on experiences and labs prepare students for advanced-level high school science courses. Appropriate instructional strategies and computer technology promote processes to solve complex scientific problems and create innovative products including science fair projects using multimedia tools.

These courses are offered on each of the EPISD middle school campuses. If you wish to have your child participate in the screening process, please request the *Nomination* and *Permission to Test* forms from the campus GT Screening Chair.