



# GIFTED & TALENTED PROGRAMS



Northside Independent School District is committed to meeting the needs of all students. In order to meet the needs of gifted students, NISD works to identify children who demonstrate high intellectual ability, creativity, and task commitment. The District has a flexible system of viable program options which provides a learning continuum that reinforces the strengths, needs, and interests of gifted students.



## GOALS

- To provide an enrichment program to stimulate the talents of gifted students
- To guide students to develop a healthy self-concept and to acquire complex skills for collaborative conflict resolution and teamwork
- To implement the principles of divergent thinking and foster higher-order thinking skills such as analysis, synthesis, and evaluation
- To promote creative problem-solving for real world issues
- To provide opportunities for self-directed learning and assessment
- To arrange experiences which promote task commitment
- To encourage an attitude of responsible service to others
- To promote a global perspective and a respect for cultural differences and similarities
- To assist students in making career choices
- To think not only of what is, but what can be
- To assist students in making career choices



## IDENTIFYING GIFTED STUDENTS

Formal screening of students for identification and services through the Gifted Program is ongoing throughout the school year. Referrals may be submitted online using the GT Program District Referral Form.

<https://northside.projectedu.net/home/CustomGTParentReferral>

## GIFTED PROGRAM SERVICES

In Northside School District, the gifted program is implemented according to grade level groups.

**Elementary  
Secondary**

**Kindergarten through grade 5  
Middle School (Grades 6, 7, and 8)  
High School (Grades 9 through 12)**

## PROGRAM OPTIONS

### Elementary School Students

- Credit by examination\*
- Scheduling adjustments to meet individual needs
- Advanced resources, materials, and learning activities
- Opportunities to learn at a pace and level appropriate to abilities and skills
- Grades K-2 GT Program nurtures creative and critical thinking in capable young students. The GT resource teacher delivers services approximately 1.5 to 2 hours weekly.
- Gifted students in grades 3-5 are pulled together each week for approximately 3 to 5 hours to attend GT classes where they study in small groups with the GT Campus Specialist. Multidisciplinary, process-centered mini-studies are designed for these students. Attention is paid to students' interests and to their unique learning characteristics.
- MaC GT - A program at selected campuses that clusters high achieving math students with GT students.

### Middle School Students

- Credit by examination\*
- Honors/Advanced and Gifted content courses
- The Middle School Innovative Project (MSIP) is a multi-disciplinary opportunity for students to study a topic of interest in-depth. Topics must be related to the content of the student's GT class. The MSIP aims to be a rigorous, relevant opportunity for students to use their own independent research to develop an innovative product. Students who complete the MSIP develop leadership and presentation skills, as well as inquiry and research processes. These students become more proficient in the analysis and synthesis of information, and above all, develop confidence in their own abilities.



### High School Students

- Credit by examination\*
- Honors/Advanced and Advanced Placement courses\*\*
- Dual Credit and OnRamps\*\*
- The High School GT program consists of 3 components:  
**Seminars, GT Leadership 1 & 2, and ISM**

### Seminars

Seminars are held throughout the year on various topics. Presenters in various areas of arts and sciences examine contemporary and futuristic issues to provoke students' curiosity, inquiry, and involvement. Students may sign up to attend one or more of the seminars offered during the school year.

### GT Leadership 1

This HONORS elective class offers GT freshmen and sophomores a hands-on, active learning approach to leadership and organization including college planning, resume writing, decision-making skills, problem-solving techniques, communication skills, human relation skills, and understanding the need for civic responsibility. Students enrolled in the course will apply these skills in dealing with peers, school administration, and the community. Students may receive a speech credit for this course, if needed.

### GT Leadership 2

This HONORS elective class offers GT sophomores, juniors, and seniors the opportunity to focus on their choice of entrepreneurship or service while allowing for global awareness and recognizing the contribution of responsible citizens and leaders through business models or service projects. Students work in collaboration to develop products or events that connect their personal passions and interests, using a business model or service project conceptualized, created, and executed by the students. The goal of this course is to give students an opportunity to practice the professionalism, leadership, and collaborative skills they will need in the post academic world while developing academic skills and learning about the real-world marketplace and community needs.

### Independent Study Mentorship (ISM)

Gifted juniors and seniors may enroll in an Independent Study Mentorship class. In this HONORS class, students pursue an area of special interest under the guidance of a mentor for a full year. At the end of the year, students must do a presentation and product display to an invited audience including a panel of experts from the selected field of study. Students, parents, mentors, and college entrance committees report that this is the most useful preparation for the real world offered by the educational system.

Gifted students are highly encouraged to graduate with a distinguished level of achievement. This graduation path also broadens student opportunities for scholarships. See your campus counselor for more information.

\* Students in Grades K-12 may take credit by examination to attempt to test out of a grade level or (depending on the grade level) a course without having had prior instruction.

\*\* Advanced Placement, Dual Credit and OnRamps courses may allow students to earn college credit prior to high school graduation.

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### Northside Independent School District

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*For further information, please contact the Gifted and Enrichment Program Specialist at your child's home campus.*