



Gifted & Talented

April 2017 | Volume 3, Article 3 | *In Klein ISD, every student enters with a promise and exits with a purpose.*

A Message for our GT Parents

Welcome to the April Gifted and Talented Newsletter!

Over the past month, reminders of the importance of building relationships as well as providing meaningful, positive student experiences have emerged.

I recently heard from several former students who reinforced this belief as they reflected on seemingly small classroom events which had profound impacts on their lives as students. Whether they are now attending a local college or studying neuroscience, they all have one common memory, positive and powerful classroom interactions. As an educator, I was proud to know that my students had these experiences and I am excited to now work toward these same impacts for our gifted and talented students.

Our Advanced Academics team is excited to partner with schools and parents, forming valuable partnerships with the goal to work together for the best interest of our students academically as well as in their social-emotional needs. Each day our team is eager to begin the day's adventures with the goal of excellent instruction, positive impacts on students lives and continuing the pursuit of our vision—*In Klein ISD, EVERY student enters with a promise and exits with a purpose.*

We look forward to our partnership and invite you to attend the Gifted and Talented Parent meetings each month as we work with parents in the continuous improvement process for all of our gifted students.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact myself or the College and Career Pathways team.

Gratefully,

Chris Winkler

Advanced Academics Officer

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Acceleration

National Association of Gifted Children



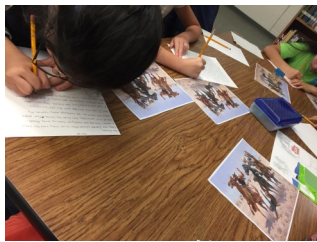
Acceleration occurs when students move through traditional curriculum at rates faster than typical. Among the many forms of acceleration that Klein ISD offers are grade-skipping, dual-credit courses, Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate programs and subject-based acceleration (e.g., when a 8th grade student takes a high school math course). Many researchers consider acceleration to be “appropriate educational planning. It means matching the level and complexity of the curriculum with the readiness and motivation of the student”.

- In a study of high-ability children who had been accelerated, 71% reported satisfaction with their acceleration experience. Of the participants who reported they were unsatisfied, the majority said they would have preferred more acceleration and that acceleration was an “excellent experience” for them.
- Some argue that acceleration can be harmful to students’ self-concept, ability to fit in with older peers, or other social-emotional needs. As the National Work Group on Acceleration determined, there is “no evidence that acceleration has a negative effect on a student’s social-emotional development.”
- In another study, researchers noted that students who whole-grade accelerated were not noticeably different socially and emotionally compared to their new grade level peers (including interacting with others and their ability to form friendships).

<https://www.nagc.org/resources-publications/gifted-education-practices/acceleration>

GT Enrichment Highlight

Our coordinators meet regularly with campus staff and the district team to create enrichment lessons based on student data and need. This month analyzing and writing is our focus,



analyzing from different perspectives and writing to increase academic vocabulary. One example of enrichment is a series of lessons inspired by Ms. Jessica Jasper (Advanced Academics Coordinator). The lessons demonstrate students analyzing artwork and considering the possible perspectives.

In the image above, students are examining a work of art called "Aiding a Comrade" by Frederic Remington. The students were asked to create journal entries from the point of view of anyone or anything other than the cowboys pictured. Several students discussed how the horses or Indians felt, and other students noted how the critters that lived on the prairie may have felt although they are not included in the picture.

Coding Expo

April 10th and April 11th 9:30 to 11:30 am at the KMPC

Upcoming Klein ISD GT Parent Meetings

Klein Collins	5/10	6:00-7:30 pm
Klein Oak	5/16	6:00-7:30 pm
Klein High	5/2	6:00-7:30pm

Topics for May meetings will include interactive Depth and Complexity activities .

Upcoming GT Parent Meeting

(Led by GT Parents)

KMPC 5/4 6:00-7:30

Topic for discussion: Creating a District Wide Parent Organization to support Klein ISD gifted students and families.

Helpful Resources

Duke Tip: <https://tip.duke.edu/>

Gifted Publications: <http://www.txgifted.org/giftedpublications>
<http://www.nagc.org/resources-publications>

[Follow KISD Teaching and Learning on Twitter!](#)

Advanced Academics: @Klein_aa

Jenny McGown: @jenny_mcgown

Beth Gilleland: @beth_gilleland

Promise 2 Purpose @promise2purpose

College Pathways

Klein ISD is excited to offer students the opportunity to earn an associates degree while still in high school! Although this pathway is not just for gifted students, it is an excellent example of an acceleration opportunity. Students will follow an application process, and 30 students will ultimately be selected to participate from across the district each year. All students who enter the Global Business Pathway will attend Klein Forest High School and take a majority of their coursework with the same 30 student cohort throughout their high school career.



At the end of their Global Business Pathway journey students will earn a high school diploma and associate's degree, often within the same week! For more information, go to www.promise2purpose.net . Stay tuned next month for more information on additional pathways.

TPSP Update

The district Showcase is just around the corner! All 4th and 8th graders will showcase their projects at the KMPC on May 15th or May 16th.

Most students will present during their campus showcase during April. After the campus showcase, students sharing their research at the district level will have the opportunity to edit their work based on the feedback received from the judge at the campus level event. We are excited to see the great work from our students across the district! Please let us know if you have any questions; we are happy to answer your questions and help your child.

Summer Happenings!

<http://www.txgifted.org/k-12-program-listing>

Enrichment programs can be an excellent opportunity for gifted students to develop skills and interests. The Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented provides information for summer camps, after-school and year-long programs offered throughout the country. These programs focus on a broad range of subject areas and are endorsed by TAGT!

