

MOUNT VERNON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION PROGRAM

DEFINITION

Mount Vernon ISD provides a gifted and talented program for those students who perform, or show the potential to perform, at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared to others of the same age, experience, or environment and who excel in specific fields. The district identifies and serves gifted/talented students in the realm of academics, with services in the four core academic areas (language arts, math, science, social studies).

NOMINATIONS

- Teachers, parents, students, or any person directly involved in the student's educational experience may nominate a child for entrance into the gifted/talented program.
- Kindergarten students are identified for the G/T program in the spring semester.
- Students in all other grade levels are nominated once annually in the fall semester. Nominations will begin in the month of September, and nominated students will be evaluated in the fall semester.
- All nominated students will be evaluated.
- A student who is nominated and does not qualify for the G/T program may be nominated again after a twelve month period.
- Transfer students who are new to MVISD and are already identified by their previous district will be entered into the program upon enrollment.

SCREENING AND SELECTION

Students are screened for the gifted and talented program using several criteria.

Upon completion of criteria for all nominated students within one semester, a committee determines placement for each child. A committee member who is related to a student nominated for the program shall remove himself/herself from the committee during the evaluation of that student. Identification for the gifted and talented program is based upon a preponderance of evidence that indicates program placement as the best educational setting for the child. Parents of all nominated children are then notified of the committee's decision.

PROGRAM DESIGN

Elementary School (Kindergarten – 4th):

Kindergarten students are nominated and identified annually in the spring semester. Students in 1st through 4th grades are nominated and identified annually in the fall semester. Identified students in Kindergarten are served in regular classrooms with GT trained teachers using differentiated instruction. GT students in 1st – 4th grades are served in a G/T-specific class with emphasis on creative thinking, research and presentation skills. In addition, identified students are served in regular classrooms in reading, writing, math, science and social studies with trained GT teachers using differentiated instruction.

PROGRAM DESIGN (continued)**Middle School (5th-8th)**

Students are nominated and identified annually in the fall semester. Students are served in regular classrooms in reading, writing, math, science and social studies with trained GT teachers using differentiated instruction according to the district plan. Identified students may also participate in honors classes in Reading and Math in 6th grade, English Language Arts, Reading and Math in both 7th and 8th grades provided they meet the qualifying academic standards. Students are screened at the end of 6th grade for Pre-Algebra in 7th grade followed by Algebra I in 8th grade.

High School (9th – 12th):

Students are nominated and identified annually in the fall semester. Identified students are offered pre-AP courses in English I, English II, Biology I, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, and Chemistry. Advanced placement (AP) courses are offered in English III, English IV, Calculus, Chemistry, Computer Science, U.S. History and Art. Additionally, concurrent credit classes are offered in partnership with Northeast Texas Community College. None of these advanced classes are closed to other students; therefore they are not purely GT classes. Differentiated instruction is used as needed for identified students.

REASSESSMENT, FURLOUGH, TRANSFER STUDENTS, EXIT

Continued placement in the Mount Vernon ISD gifted/talented program will occur as long as students maintain satisfactory performance within the structure of the program. No reassessment will occur at any given grade level.

If a student is unable to maintain satisfactory performance within the structure of the gifted and talented program, the selection committee may place that student on furlough. The purpose of such a furlough is to provide the student an opportunity to attain performance goals established by the selection committee. Identified high school students who do not enroll in at least one pre-AP, AP, or concurrent class will be placed on furlough by the selection committee. A furlough also may be granted at the request of the student and/or parent. A student may be furloughed for a period of time deemed appropriate by the selection committee. At the end of the furlough, the student's progress shall be reassessed, and the student may re-enter the gifted program, be removed from the program, or be placed on another furlough.

The district shall monitor student performance in the program. If at any time the selection committee determines it is in the best interest of the student and his or her educational needs, the committee may exit a student from the program. If a student or parent requests removal from the program, the selection committee shall meet with the parent and student before honoring the request.

A parent or student may appeal any final decision of the selection committee regarding selection for or exit from the gifted program. Appeals shall be made first to the selection committee. Any subsequent appeals shall be made in accordance with FNG (LOCAL) beginning at Level Two.

Transfer students who enroll in Mount Vernon ISD and have been previously identified as gifted/talented will be placed in the MVISD gifted program.

Parents may remove their child from the program at any time by submitting a written request to the school counselor or principal. Once the request is received, the selection committee will meet with the parent and student.