

Gifted & Talented

May 2017 | Volume 4, Article 4 | *In Klein ISD, every student enters with a promise and exits with a purpose.*

A Message for our GT Parents

Welcome to the May GT Newsletter!

We are fortunate to share a special message this month from Ms. Danna Small, a parent of gifted students here in Klein ISD. She is an advocate for gifted students across our district and is working diligently with other parents to develop a parent organization in Klein ISD with a goal to create a community of support for our gifted students and families. Her enthusiasm and passion for serving is a gift to Klein ISD. Thank you, Ms. Small, for your dedication and your message to our parents!

Chris Winkler
Advanced Academics
Instructional Officer



Hello All!

I was pleasantly surprised to be invited to observe the GT Guiding Coalition in action at Klein's Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) on Louetta Road on April 12th. I walked into the large room and felt such a positive energy throughout. The room was filled with 40 or so ladies (and 5 gentlemen, by my quick count). I was warmly invited into the room with a wave of big smiles and a kind gesture to join Latoya Wynne at her table. The room was soon thereafter sorted by teams, based on interests and established goals, and I did my best to keep up with the quick pace. I was impressed to see that the meeting format invited everyone to participate and allow for all voices to be heard.

Facilitated by Chris Winkler and Dr. Jenny McGown, the GT Guiding Coalition was gathered for the fourth time to continue work on their four (4) goals. These goals have been developed collectively by the Coalition and are now associated with two dozen or so action-oriented steps. In my own words, here is a summary of the four goals:

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Proud to be in Klein!

Pentathlon Highlight



On April 29, 2017, our 7th and 8th-grade Pentathlon teams competed at the Regional Level. Thirty-one teams represented each grade level with our incredible Klein ISD students virtually sweeping the competition. Four schools dominated the overall scores - congrats to Dorrre, Strack, Hildebrandt, and Klein Intermediate! The dedication of all Klein ISD students and coaches has been phenomenal this year! The Advanced Academics Department is proud of each and every one of our students and their amazing successes!

Robotics Highlight

In another banner year for Klein ISD Robotics, Team 3735 VorTX, composed of students from Klein Forest, Klein Collins, Klein High, and Klein Oak reached the finals of their subdivision, in the annual FIRST® Championship held at the George R. Brown Convention Center on April 19th through April 22nd.



The four-day event hosted more than 15,000 students from around the world! Team 3735 with its menacing robot named Sabre, sliced its way to vie for the Newton Subdivision finals in alliance with teams from California and Florida. The dedication of these incredible students and coaches is evident, and Klein ISD is very proud of Team VorTX! Way to go!



A Message for Parents...

1. Create multimodal communication and develop programs that are inclusive to and for the Klein GT community (approximately 2,200 families)
2. Provide more GT training and professional development for teachers, staff, and administration. Also, develop a repository for knowledge sharing and best practices.
3. Develop GT Pathways and redesign campus level support.
4. Increase the percentage of Klein ISD students identified as gifted.

I left this meeting feeling like our children are in great care, with these teachers and administrators leading the charge to provide quality services and learning opportunities to their students. I heard talk (or brainstorming, I feel compelled to point out) about possibly developing individualized education plans (IEP) for Gifted students, offering a foreign language on elementary campuses, and improving communication and data management through technology to encourage and promote collaborative learning for and between teachers, students, parents, and administrators.

If you share a passion for promoting excellence and creating opportunities for your child(ren), I encourage you to reach out to the GT Guiding Coalition leadership and ask how you can play a role in this effort. Your gifts and talents will surely benefit your child(ren) and build our community.

Cheers,

Ms. Danna Small

Standing in the midst of promise & purpose



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 .

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_AdvAca

Jenny McGown: @jenny_mcgown

Beth Gilleland: @beth_gilleland

Promise 2 Purpose @promise2purpose

GT Summit

Klein ISD is excited to announce our very first GT Summit! Scheduled to take place on September 16th at the Klein Multi-Purpose Center, this community event will not only be informative but fun! Please plan to attend to learn about new opportunities for GT students, to be inspired, and to have a great time! All ages are welcome, so please bring the entire family! Program choices will include breakout sessions for parents and a variety of fun activities for children.

The menu of options will include extracurricular options for students like Destination Imagination Challenges and educational opportunities for parents such as "Gifted 101: What to Expect for Your Child!" We are thrilled to share all the great things the Klein ISD Advanced Academics Program has to offer your students, and we look forward to seeing you there! More information to come in our next GT Parent Newsletter and throughout the summer on Promise2Pur-



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.

While all 4th and 8th-grade students will showcase at the district level, two students from grades 1-3, 5 and 6-7 will also have the opportunity to showcase. These students were randomly selected by the campus to share their amazing research. The specific times and dates have been sent to your individual schools. Please contact your principals for details if you have questions about when your student will showcase his/her hard work.

Science Acceleration!

Doerre Intermediate will pilot a new science program for the 2017-2018 school year.

Students wishing to accelerate in the subject of area of science may engage in this opportunity by completing their 8th grade science course prior to the beginning of school in August 2017.

Students who accelerate in math or science have an array of options during their high school years to fulfill their interest in these subject areas. See Promise2Prurpose.net for high school STEM options.