



**Comal ISD Support Services**

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*Updated July 11, 2011*

## Gifted & Talented Program

# GT

The purpose of the program is to seek, identify and provide gifted learners with experiences that will develop the potential of each individual. Identified gifted students should be challenged in order to fully develop their abilities.

## Comal ISD's Mission and Philosophy of GT

The mission of Comal ISD is to provide extensive learning opportunities for all students to ensure they become contributing members of society.

We believe that every human being is of value, with the right to optimal development. Each person is unique; therefore, we are committed to an educational program that recognizes the special value and needs of the individual student. Providing programs and materials for gifted students who **perform at or show the potential for performing at a remarkably high level of accomplishment when compared to others of the same age, experience or environment** (§29.121) is an integral part of this commitment.

We believe that identified gifted students need a **continuum of learning experiences that leads to the development of advanced level products and/or performances** (§89.3). Modifications in instructional strategies, content and the development of skills and/or products are part of the services that will be provided. The program should help to develop self-actualized learners by encouraging effective communication, guiding learners to be focused and self-directed, nurturing intrapersonal and interpersonal skills and focusing on independent research study skills, as well as developing critical and creative thinking and problem solving skills.

## Identification Process

A student may be nominated by anyone with knowledge of the student's abilities and talents. This includes school personnel, parents, other adults, the student or peers of the student.

Screening for identification is based on the following criteria:

(1) Intellectual Ability, measured by

- Naglieri Nonverbal Abilities Test (NNAT), and/or
- The Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT), or
- Any other comparable abilities test;

(2) Adult Evaluations

- From a parent and from a current or former teacher; and,

(3) Portfolio/Product Evaluation

- Completed at school and evaluated by the district selection committee.

For a specific assessment timeline, visit [www.comalisd.org](http://www.comalisd.org).

Transfer students are evaluated based on the criteria for identification. Students transferring from a similar program will be considered if the testing data sent by the former school district indicates the student had superior intellectual ability. Additional testing may be required.

Students are placed in appropriate classes as soon as possible after all necessary information is available.

## Gifted and Talented Curriculum

Curriculum and instruction for gifted students is met by modifying the depth, complexity and pacing of the general school program. This is accomplished by providing a differentiated, enriched academic environment that uses instructional methods and materials designed to develop thinking processes that enhance independent study and personal effectiveness.

**Elementary School** - Identified gifted students will be able to work both independently and in groups with other students. All teachers who teach core subjects and have identified students in their classroom will have the state-required GT training and will provide appropriately challenging learning experiences to all students. Elementary GT facilitators will provide pull-out opportunities to identified gifted students at least once a week.

**Middle School** - Identified gifted students will be able to work both independently and in groups with other students. Students are encouraged to take Pre-AP (Pre-Advanced Placement) courses in the areas where they excel. Identified students may also take a Critical Thinking Through Cultural Awareness elective course that provides opportunities for higher-level thinking and problem solving. All teachers who teach core subjects and have identified students in their classroom will have the state-required GT training and will provide appropriately challenging learning experiences to all students.

**High School** - Identified students are encouraged to take Pre-AP and/or AP (Advanced Placement) courses in the areas where they excel. There are a variety of Pre-AP and AP courses offered on each campus. For a complete listing, see the High School Course Guide. Students are also encouraged to participate in the Distinguished Achievement Program and may also apply to participate in the Independent Study Mentorship Program.

### High Achiever

Good memorizer  
Loves to memorize  
Loves rules  
Works hard  
Top group student

6-8 repetitions for mastery

“What do I need to do to get an A?”

Focused on the destination or end product

vs.

### Gifted

Good, informed guesser  
Loves to think and ponder  
Wants only basic guidelines  
Plays around, yet tests well  
Beyond the group

1-2 repetitions for mastery

“What is the purpose of this assignment?”

Focused on the journey or process

*Adapted from J. Juntune, PhD, 1997*

## Comal ISD Schools

### Bill Brown Elementary

830.885.1400

### Clear Spring Elementary

830.837.7300

### Freiheit Elementary

830.221.2700

### Garden Ridge Elementary

830.837.7000

### Goodwin Frazier Elementary

830.221.2200

### Hoffmann Lane Elementary

830.221.2500

### Johnson Ranch Elementary

830.885.8600

### Kinder Ranch Elementary

830.885.8900

### Morningside Elementary

830.837.7100

### Oak Creek Elementary

830.837.7200

### Rahe Bulverde Elementary

830.885.1600

### Rebecca Creek Elementary

830.885.1800

### Arlon Seay Elementary

830.885.8700

### M.H. Specht Elementary

830.885.1500

### Startzville Elementary

830.885.8000

### Timberwood Park Elementary

830.885.8500

### Canyon Middle

830.221.2300

### Church Hill Middle

830.221.2800

### Mountain Valley Middle

830.885.1300

### Smithson Valley Middle

830.885.1200

### Spring Branch Middle

830.885.8800

### Canyon High

830.221.2400

### Canyon Lake High

830.885.1700

### Smithson Valley High

830.885.1000

### Alamo Colleges

### High School

830.221.2900

### Comal Discipline Center

830.221.2950