

EANES INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT GIFTED AND TALENTED

Dear Parents,

One of the educational opportunities we offer in the Eanes Independent School District is the Gifted and Talented Program. The focus of the GT Program is to serve students who have instructional needs due to exceptional **potential in both** intellectual and creative abilities. If you are new to Eanes ISD, your child may or may not have participated in a gifted program in your previous school district. Because our program emphasis may be different, your child will need to be assessed under EISD guidelines.

Students are assessed through a formal process to determine which students require GT curriculum modifications. The assessment process is open to all students through a referral system. Students may be referred by parents, staff members, or themselves. Once a student is referred, a **Consent for Assessment** form is sent to the parents. Four or five measures are used to assess students: an ability test, an analytical test for K-1 students, a student portfolio, and the Gifted and Talented Evaluation Scales (GATES) forms which are completed by you and your child's teacher(s). You are encouraged to attend one of the Parent Information Meetings offered at your campus. Notification of meeting dates/times will be published in your campus newsletter or on your campus web site.

When the Consent for Assessment form is completed and returned to the campus GT specialist (in her/his school office mailbox), the assessment process officially begins. If we do not have the Consent for Assessment form by the posted deadline, we will assume that you are not interested in this opportunity at this time. Assessment for the Gifted and Talented Program takes place at the beginning of each semester, and you are welcome to pursue it at a later date if you do not choose to do so now. Kindergarten students may be assessed at the beginning of the second semester only. The entire assessment process takes about six weeks due to the variety of data that must be collected. If your child has participated in a gifted program in another school district, please attach any relevant information (i.e. testing results) to your Consent for Assessment, or if the counselor has that information, please make a note on the form.

You will be notified in writing after the process is completed and the Campus GT Instructional Needs Committee has met to make its recommendation. You are then welcome to make an appointment with the GT Specialist to review the results.

Sincerely,

Gifted and Talented Specialist

DEADLINE FOR CONSENT FOR ASSESSMENT FORM: January 9, 2009 (office mailbox)

DEADLINE FOR GATES FORM FROM PARENT: January 15, 2009 (office mailbox)

DEADLINE FOR STUDENT PROJECT (1ST-12TH): January 29, 2009 (GT classroom)

The forms are due in the GT Specialist's school office mailbox. Projects – GT Class