

Harmony Public Schools Gifted and Talented Program

2014-15

Introduction

- Ryan Comer M. Ed.
- Educational focus on ESL and behavior issues
- Masters thesis on “How to Successfully Teach Students with ADHD”
- Last year taught Engineering, Computers, and GT
- Before Harmony- taught most grades 1-12 (student teaching/sub/class)
- Professional sales for the past 19 years (pharmaceutical neuroscience and technology sales)

New for this year

- Promoted to GT coach
- Full time GT focus
- Two pull outs per week-45 minutes each K-5
- In class support for teachers and students in K-5
- Direct teacher support 6-11 for curriculum development
- GT steering committee
- New addition to the team Ms. Payton
 - Teach K-2 and co-tech select grades
 - Aid in general GT activates

What this means for you and your child

- Twice as many GT pull outs for grades k-5
- Consistent GT services all year
- In-class support for all core classes in all grades
- Teachers are more focused on GT differentiation
- Allows pullouts to cover subjects that go beyond what is taught in class.

Activities for the Year

- *Photography (September-December)*
- Proper camera handling techniques
- Lighting
- Perspective
- Macro photography
- Technology
- Aperture, shutter speed, ISO relations
- Software
- Composition
- Cross integration with Math, ELA, Science
- Photography display project

Activities for the Year

- *Nutritional Science (January to May)*
- Partnership with Texas A&M
- Healthy eating
- Food groups
- Nutritional analysis of food and drinks
- Understanding food labels
- Explore how the body absorbs nutrients
- Chemistry of food
- Cultural background of certain foods

Possible Academic Competitions

- Math Counts (Grades 6-8)
- Science Olympiad (Grades 6-12)
- Odyssey of the Mind (Grades K-12)
- Science and Engineering Fairs (Grades 4-12)
- The Math League (Grades 4-12)
- Spelling Bee (Grades K-8)
- Academic Pentathlon (Grades 6-8)
- UIL Academics
- American Mathematics Competition (AMC) (Grades 6-12)
- Robotics Competitions (Grades 4-12)

Exiting the program

- Students could exit the program if they do not perform at expected standards in the program.
- A student may be exited from the G/T program:
 - Repeated failure to complete work assigned.
 - Substantial difficulty in understanding work that other students do independently (without parental or tutorial assistance).
 - Consistent pattern of low grades (C's, D's or F's) over 6 weeks.
 - Behavioral concerns, distractions, etc.

GT Website

- The GT website will be the primary source for information and upcoming events
- The term GT is being transitioned to GATE (Gifted and Talented Education)
- Go to the schools website and select GATE on the left side