



GT Parent Information

Coulson Tough K-6 School



Conroe ISD Gifted and Talented Department Mission and Vision



Program Mission Statement:

Conroe ISD Gifted & Talented (GT) program educates students to increase high levels of academic performance through the development of staff capacity for rigorous instruction and differentiated, individualized student programming.

CISD GT Program Philosophy:

All Conroe I.S.D. students have the opportunity to be assessed and identified for the Gifted and Talented (GT) program. Those identified to participate in GT services through the CISD screening process are served through programs and courses designed to meet their unique needs related to giftedness.

CISD GT Program Vision:

We strive to meet the intellectual, academic and unique needs of the gifted learner by providing more depth, complexity and independent study beyond the regular curriculum. We will serve students participating in the GT program by providing a relevant and deeper understanding and application of their developed knowledge and skills, and motivate our students to become lifelong learners and leaders.

GT Foundation Hours

All teachers who have an identified GT student in their classrooms must complete an initial 30 hours of training to recognize the nature and needs of gifted students in their classrooms. Teachers are required to maintain these hours yearly with updates.

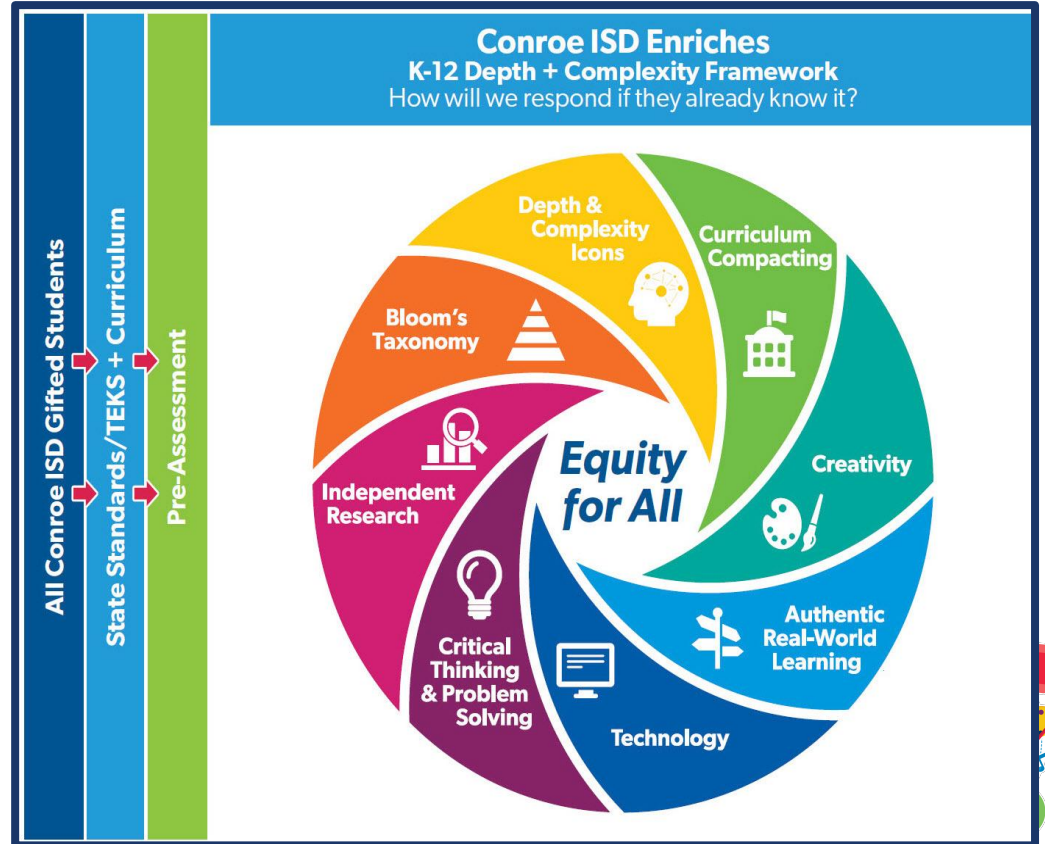
5 areas of training:

1. Depth & Complexity
2. Curriculum & Instruction
3. Differentiation
4. Identification & Instruction
5. Social & Emotional Needs



CISD Enriches: Our District Framework

- Classroom teachers with identified GT students are expected to utilize the differentiation strategies in our framework. These strategies include:
 - Depth and Complexity strategies
 - Curriculum Compacting (pre-testing when appropriate)
 - Critical and creative thinking strategies
 - TPSP: Project Based Independent Research
 - The classroom teacher is responsible for the completion of the TPSP project.



TPSP: The Texas Performance Standards Project



TPSP Information and website:
<https://www.texaspsp.org/>

- Classroom teachers are responsible for the TPSP project.
- The TPSP is separate from the GT Challenge Class. Challenge teachers *do not* complete TPSP with students.
- The projects are age appropriate, TEKS based and are designed to stretch and challenge students.
- 90% of the project is to be completed at school.



GT CHALLENGE CLASS



Challenge Class Pull-Out: What do they do?



1. **Develop positive self-concepts and an appreciation of giftedness to enable students to be productive citizens who interact effectively with peers, community, and society.**
2. **Develop critical, creative, and evaluative thinking processes that lead students to produce advanced level products.**
3. **Develop student behaviors and skills necessary for lifelong learning, exploration of new ideas, and individual responsibility.**
4. **Develop active and challenging lessons and STEM activities in the four core content areas with a focus on thinking skills and the unique needs of gifted students incorporating the Texas Essential Knowledge In Skills.**












LENORA BARNES

- Mrs. Barnes has been an educator for 32 years with 6 of those being in CISD.
- She has a passion for working with Gifted and Talented students and loves to challenge students with new activities that are engaging and different each week.
- Mrs. Barnes earned a Bachelor of Science in Academic Studies from Sam Houston State University and a Master of Education in School Counseling from Lamar University.
- Contact Information: labarnes@conroeisd.net
- Campus Locations:
 - Houser Elementary
 - Powell Elementary
 - Tough Elementary



GT Challenge Class

During lessons, Depth and Complexity questioning will be incorporated, which will help your child think beyond the surface. Our class will also focus on the unique needs of gifted children. Students will learn how to work through these various skills weekly. The goal is to bring these skills back to the general classroom to put into practice.

Depth & Complexity Iconic Prompts			
	Icon	Definition	Example
Language of the Discipline		What vocabulary terms are specific to the content or discipline?	Tools Jargon Icons Acronyms Special phrases Terms Slang Abbreviations
Details		What are the defining features or characteristics? Find examples and evidence to support opinions and ideas.	Parts Factors Attributes Variables Distinguishing Traits
Patterns		What elements recur? What is the sequence or order of events? Make predictions based on past events.	Predictability Repetition
Trends		Note factors (Social, Economic, Political, Geographic) that cause events to occur. Identify patterns of change over time.	Influence Forces Direction Course of Action Compare, Contrast and Forecast
Rules		What structure underlies this subject? What guidelines or regulations affect it? What hierarchy or ordering principle is at work?	Structure Order Reasons Organization Explanation Classification "Because..."
Ethics		What moral principles are involved in this subject? What controversies exist? What arguments could emerge from a study of this topic?	Values Morals Pro and Con Bias Discrimination Prejudice Judging Differing Opinions Point of View Right and Wrong Wisdom
Big Ideas		What theory or general statement applies to these ideas? How do these ideas relate to broad concepts such as change, systems, chaos vs. order, etc? What is the main idea?	Draw conclusions based on evidence Make generalizations Summarize Theory Principle Main Idea
Unanswered Questions		What information is unclear, missing, or unavailable? What evidence do you need? What has not yet been proven?	Missing Parts Incomplete Ideas Discrepancies Unresolved Issues Ambiguity
Changes over Time		How are elements related in terms of the past, present, and future? How and why do things change? What doesn't change?	Connecting points in time Examining a time period Compare and Contrast
Across the Disciplines		Relate the area of study to other subjects within, between, and across disciplines.	Connect Associate Integrate Link Ideas Cross-Curricular study
Multiple Perspectives		How would others see the situation differently?	Different roles and knowledge Opposing viewpoints



Coaching a Growth Mindset

Questions to Develop a Growth Mindset

- What did you learn from today's performance?
- What steps did you take to make you successful today?
- What are some different strategies you could have used?
- How did you keep going when things got tough?
- What can you learn from your opponent today?

5 Feedback Comments to Develop a Growth Mindset

- This will be a challenging concept to learn, but I believe you can master it.
- You haven't got it yet, but you will if you keep working and thinking about it.
- I really appreciated your effort today.
- It is okay to take risks, that's how we learn.
- Getting better takes time and I see you improving.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

1. After consent forms have been signed and returned, you will receive the CISD Gifted and Talented Challenge Class Parent Manual. In it you will find information regarding the pull out program.
2. Each month you will receive a newsletter, *The Gifted Gazette*, that details the lessons taught that month by each grade level.
3. GT Challenge teachers take attendance and following the CISD initiative, we will utilize the CHAMPS expectations system.
4. GT Challenge teachers are not responsible for administering the TPSP - it is the expectation that classroom teaches lead the project throughout the year.



Extra Curricular Activities



Inquire at your campus.

Contact Us



Gifted & Talented

Chris Reichelt

Gifted Coordinator

936-709-7817

creichelt@conroeisd.net

Julie Gault

Gifted District Coach

936-709-8243

jgault@conroeisd.net

Holly Urena

Admin. Assistant

936-709-7836

hurena@conroeisd.net