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To: TISD Parents
Date: December 18, 2008
Re: TISD Gifted Screening

First Grade through Fifth Grade Nominations

January 5 through January 30, 2009 nominations for GT screening are open. Nomination forms may be obtained from your Campus Administration offices; Advanced Studies offices at the Gary Instructional Complex; or on the TISD website. Return the nomination form to your school on or before January 30th. To help you to decide, the back of this letter offers a contrast of average high achieving students to gifted and gifted/creative students. The Texas State Plan for Gifted Students from the (TEA) Texas Education Agency's Division of Advanced Academic Services calls for school districts to identify gifted students with both qualitative and quantitative measures and to offer services to meet their needs.

The TISD identification process this year is as follows:

STAGE I

1. Naglieri Aptitude test (Nonverbal form)-November, 2008 given on campus to 1st, 2nd, and 4th grades. *The top quartile will move on to take the COGAT Aptitude test (Verbal form.)*
2. COGAT Aptitude test (Verbal form)-End of December or First of January on campus to the top scoring quartile of 1st, 2nd, and 4th grades of the Naglieri testing session
3. Teacher Evaluation Inventory
4. Transcript or Report Card (Grades for 3 semesters)
5. Parent Evaluation Inventory

GT screening takes place one time each year beginning with an aptitude test given on the elementary campuses to grades 1, 2, and 4. *That score is valid for two years.* Stage I screening then takes place through a campus committee. Anyone may nominate a student for Stage I.

STAGE II

1. Stanford 10 Achievement test in Reading and Mathematics-February, 2009
2. Torrance Creativity test-February, 2009

If the student you nominate moves to Stage II, administration of the tests takes place from February 2 through February 27, 2009. Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades will be bused to the TARGET Academy at Gary for testing. 3rd, 4th, and 5th will be tested either on campus or at Gary. If the student does not meet the criteria for Stage II Assessment, you will be notified.

Kindergarten Nominations

January 5 through January 23, 2009 nominations for kindergarten screening are accepted. A kindergarten student must be able to read and calculate to test for gifted screening. If you nominate a bright student who does not yet read above kindergarten level and calculate reasonably well, testing can be very frustrating for even a very bright student of this age. Waiting another year for maturity and additional learning can impact the testing scenario in a positive way.