**GT parent meeting at Hammond High School on 10/15/2014**

The power point which was used in the meeting is available at

<http://www.hcpss.org/f/academics/gt/gt-overview-presentation-parent-academy.pdf>

Ms. Heather Tom who is the GT advisory steering Committee Chair started the meeting at 7:00 pm by introducing herself. The parent day by the national association for gifted is scheduled for Nov 15th at Baltimore convention center and Hilton Baltimore, MD. Website for further information is available at

<http://www.eventscribe.com/2014/nagc/NAGC-ParentDay.asp>

The agenda for GT Parent meeting was to give idea about the different programs offered in Elementary schools, Middle School and High school. There were presentation by students representing each level during the meeting. At the end there was question and answer session for each level which was divided in separate groups.

The goals of GT programs are:

* Accelerate the achievement and performance levels of students who participate in GT education program offerings.
* Increase successful participation of underrepresented populations of students in GT education programs offerings.
* Continue to develop a highly qualified professional staff.
* Build a community of GT education program advocates.

The content area for Elementary, middle and high school are offered as follows:

* In Elementary School: CEUs for all grades but mainly from grade 1 and GT math for 4th and 5th grade only
* In Middle School: GT math, GT Science, GT English and GT Social Studies
* In High school: GT and AP Courses.

Along with the CEU, GT instructional seminars are also offered in the Elementary and Middle schools and GT research programs in High schools. Seminars are open to all interested students and the instruction is in advanced level skills and based on creative production or inquiry.

**Elementary School:**

Some examples of CEU are:

* 1st grade: “The art of Language”, “Children just like me”
* 2nd grade: “Transportation”, “Archaeology”
* 3rd grade: “World Cultures”, “Bridges”
* 4th grade: “Ancient Civilizations”, “Space”, “Chesapeake Bay”
* 5th grade: “Politics of Persuasion”, “Ocean systems”, “Leadership”

Atholton Elementary students presented “Making waves” to give the idea about the CEU.

Some examples of Seminars are:

* Chesapeake Bay
* Zam’s Quest
* Green School
* Engineering challenge
* Young writers institute
* Challenge book club
* NOAA projects like stock market
* Constitutional connections
* NASA Challenge

**Middle School:**

8th grade students of Hammond high school provided the idea about GT content area class and GT research class overview.

GT classes in middle school are rigorous and challenging. Students get research opportunities during national history day. GT Science investigations provides research skills such as analyzing data, conducting interviews and presenting the findings. In English, they read advanced level texts analyze them.

Examples of Seminars offered in Middle School:

* TV productions
* Debate
* Middle school Book Club
* Film production
* Environmental studies
* Shakespeare performance
* Math problem solving
* Leadership

GT research is to explore interest in depth. The skills acquired during the research are knowledge of primary research methods, tools for data collection and analysis and self-management of a long term project.

**High School:**

GT research program in high school was presented by Hammond High school student. He explain his research and how it helped him during his college application. In high school students can either opt for GT independent research or GT intern/Mentor program.

**There are more programs offered other than the school academic year such as**

1. GT summer institute for talent development
2. Middle school GT accelerated maths program
3. GT musical performance groups
4. GT visual arts programs

If you have more questions, here are contacts

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**Question and Answer session for Elementary grades:**

1. What kind of test is given for the eligibility in GT math?
* Cogat test is given to all 3rd grade students during Dec 1-12 to test for GT Math. It has 3 sub test
1. Verbal reasoning
2. Quantitative test
3. Non-Verbal or spatial awareness
* If student miss the test in December then May/Jun is the makeup test times.
* This test is given in 3rd and 5th grade.
* Resources are not available for this test as it is an ability test but the format is made available to the students before the actual test.
1. Instructional seminars are only for interested students (grade 2-5) but available to all. Topics may be different in different schools.
2. If there are many number of students enrolled then teachers might split the class and run the class two days or run two sessions.
3. There are other criteria to be eligible in GT math or CEUs like MAP, PARK, teacher’s recommendations.
4. For CEU, teachers go in the class, have a talent spotting session with students. Selection criteria like content, classroom performance of the student. A student does not necessarily gets admitted in all the CEU’s of the year. CEU topics can vary with the schools.
5. If the student is in 4th grade GT math then he will continue in GT math if he/she successfully completes the course. He again takes the Cogat in 5th grade for middle school.
6. Cogat score, teachers, GT resource teacher and administrative decides if the student is eligible to go for GT classes in middle school. Parents can also recommend students if needed.
7. No of GT teachers per school is decided by staffing formula but don’t know who makes the decision.
8. Why only GT math available in Elementary school and no other GT subjects? Students show different level of understanding in math during the elementary grades hence the GT math. The other content area classes are not separated for this age kids hence other subjects are not categorized in GT.
9. Do you see student advancing to GT math in 5th grade even though he was on grade for 4th grade? Yes, schools have assigned resources to work with these students and students gets pulled from the class to get enriched on particular topics to be able to catch up the 5th grade GT math.
10. The percentage of students going from 4th grade GT to 5th grade GT is almost 100%.
11. CEUs are yearlong and generally starts in Sep or Oct.
12. Anything for students in Kindergarten? Students gets guest lessons from GT resource teachers. GT resource teacher work along with their home room teacher to have manipulatives, centers related to the topic.
13. The information about GT resource teacher and programs is available on school website. Go to GT tab and then teachers directory.
14. No of hours spend by student in CEU is 2 hrs/week in the school.
15. Same standard is used across Howard county for GT and CEU.
16. No. of students pass in Howard county for 4th grade GT Math is 28%.