GRAPEVIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT
HIGHLY CAPABLE PROGRAM GOALS and DESCRIPTION

The Grapeview School District (GSD) strives to provide access to accelerated learning and enhanced instruction for highly capable students.   GSD defines highly capable students as learners who perform or show potential for performing at significantly advanced academic levels when compared with others of their age, experiences and environment. Characteristics of these academically advanced students include the capacity and willingness to:
- Learn with unusual depth of understanding, to retain what has been learned and to transfer learning to new situations;
- Deal with increasing levels of abstraction and complexity earlier than their chronological peers;
- Make unusual connections among ideas and concepts;
- Learn quickly in their area(s) of intellectual strength; and
- Concentrate and focus intensely.

GSD offers highly capable services for students who demonstrate both aptitude and achievement in verbal and/or quantitative skill areas. There is a process to identify and retain students who will benefit the most from GSD highly capable services.

Student Achievement Goals
- Students identified for highly capable services will exceed standards in their identified service area (reading and/or math), as measured by classroom assessments and indicated on individual student report cards at the end of the school-year.

Enhanced academic program options include:
- Mid-kindergarten through grade 8 at the student's home school and are based on each student's quantitative and/or verbal strengths
- Building mentor coordinates highly capable services, which may include:
    - Curriculum compacting
    - Special projects
    - Differentiated assignments
    - Cluster grouping
    - Subject acceleration

Program Review:
Each year, the effectiveness of the Highly Capable Program will be reviewed by the district. This review will include (but is not limited to) the following:
- Student growth data from classroom teachers
- District assessment growth data
- Student's annual progress towards reaching individual goals

How can my child become a part of the Highly Capable program?

Each year, referrals are accepted during the referral window (Oct-Nov). Referrals include a parent and teacher survey that are screened using state and district assessments before notices are mailed home inviting students to take an assessment, the CogAt. Results from the CogAT are reviewed by the Highly Capable Services multidisciplinary team, as well as any other pertinent information such as grades, projects, social interactions. CogAT testing results and placement recommendations are then mailed home. If students qualify for Highly Capable Services, a permission to participate letter is included. Notification will take place by the end of the school year.

Do students need parental permission to test for and participate in Highly Capable Services?

All students who test for Highly Capable services must have a written parental/guardian permission form before any testing. If your student has been referred a permission form is included with the testing invitation letter. Contact Katie Pitroff (kpitroff@gsd54.org), Highly Capable Services Coordinator, if you need an additional permission form. As students qualify for Highly Capable services, participation requires parental permission. A permission form is included with the notification letter.

What data does the district use to determine qualification for Highly Capable Services?

- Cognitive Test of Abilities or CogAT (K-11). See http://cogat-test.com/ for more information.
- Results on most recent state (Smarter Balanced Assessment), district and school assessments (AIMSWEB in Early Literacy, Reading and Math, WAKIDS)
- Teacher and parent surveys
- Grades, class projects, and independence

Once a student meets Highly Capable qualification, a student academic plan will be created with parents, teachers, and Highly Capable Coordinator to ensure your child's needs are being met. There may also be afterschool activities geared towards H.C. that you child would be invited to participate in.