

What is differentiated curriculum?

Galena Park ISD has adopted a Journeys activities based on the content areas for each grade level (K-5) that meets the needs of the identified population. The difference is in the content, the process, and/or the product.



How are Journeys students evaluated?

Journeys report cards are given to Journeys students periodically. This report informs the parents of the many topics of study which are covered every grading period. This report card also reports the students' academic commitment. If you have any questions regarding the district's Journeys program, do not hesitate to call the Advanced Academics Department.

"The needs of the Gifted and Talented student must be addressed – not more, not better, but appropriate."

Ann Weiss, Ed.D.



Dr. Angi Williams
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Journeys

One of Galena Park Independent School District's Gifted and Talented programs for students in grades K-5



What is the Journeys philosophy?

The Journeys Program will provide students with unique educational opportunities for development in all areas so that they can become positive contributors to our society today and in the future. Galena Park is dedicated to the development of each student's individual potential. The district has made a commitment to identify and serve gifted and talented students through experiences and/or services appropriate to their unique needs. These students are provided appropriate instruction at their individual campus. The goal of each Journeys class is to develop tools for learning with emphasis on higher level-thinking, problem-solving, creative thinking, research, and the social and emotional needs of the gifted child.

How are Journeys students selected?

Students are selected by a committee comprised of the Program Director of Advanced Studies, Coordinator of Bilingual-ESL, the Gifted and Talented Specialist, the district level gifted and talented team, a parent, a counselor, and a diagnostician. The following criteria are used: aptitude test scores, achievement test scores, teacher nomination scores, creativity scores, student's products, and evidence of outstanding school and/or community performance.

Once identified, is a student always a Journeys student?

Once a student has been identified as a Journeys student and is participating successfully in the Journeys program, he/she will not be re-evaluated each year unless the child transfers to another campus. One or more of the following reasons may result in Journeys program probation:

1. Student shows signs of extreme frustration.
2. Student shows lack of response and/or academic commitment.
3. Student's performance falls below minimum academic standards (i.e., a student who earns an "F" in any subject; a student who earns a "D" for two consecutive six week periods in a subject).



Probation Procedures:

1. Notification will be made to the building principal regarding the student's problem.
2. Notification will be made to the parent regarding the student's problem.
3. Completion of the gifted and talented probation form will document the action.

If the student does not demonstrate progress during the probation period, action will be taken to exit the student from the program. This action follows the same guidelines as outlined above for probation.

How are the student's needs met?

Through differentiated classroom experiences, the identified Journeys population is given the opportunity to develop effective leadership skills. Enrichment activities throughout the curriculum are provided through innovative and effective teaching strategies which include scientific units of investigative study, creative approaches to research, creative problem-solving, critical thinking, and decision making.

