

**ALPHA**

# **Structures**

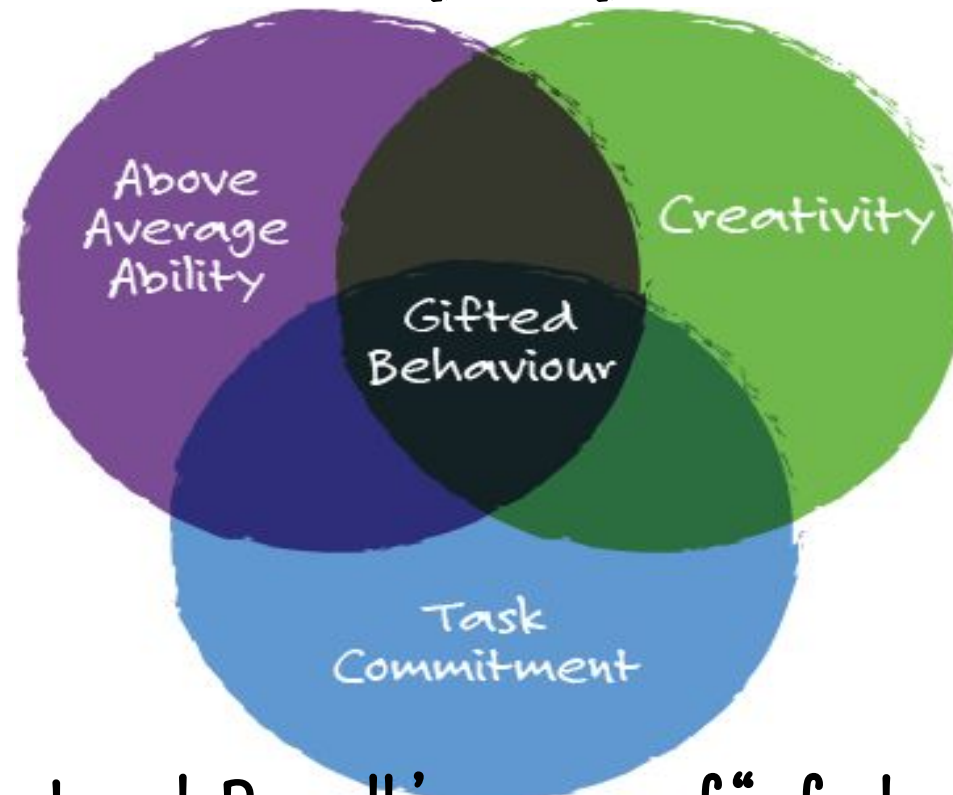
**Parent Orientation**

**2016-2017**



# What is ALPHA?

**NISD's Gifted & Talented (GT) Program –  
Advanced Learning Program for High Achievers**



Dr. Joseph Renzulli's concept of "giftedness"



# NISD Vision & Mission

**Vision:** The GT/Advanced Academics department provides unique programs that nurture the abilities of high performing students while fostering parent and community involvement through Gifted and Talented, Advanced Placement (AP), PreAP and Dual Credit classes.

**Mission:** The mission of the GT and Advanced Academics department in Northside ISD is to build a challenging learning environment that encourages life-long learning, nurtures high self-esteem, expands access to higher education, and provides experiences that enable students to reach their fullest potential as independent thinkers.



# NISD ALPHA Goals

- To guide students to **develop a healthy self-concept**
- To develop **leadership skills** and acquire complex skills for collaborative **teamwork**
- To implement the principles of **divergent thinking** and **foster higher order thinking**
- To promote **creative problem-solving** for real world issues.
- To provide opportunities for **self-directed learning and assessment**
- To arrange experiences which promote the **ongoing development of task commitment**



# NISD ALPHA Goals

- To promote a **global perspective**
- To encourage an attitude of **responsible service to others**
- To promote a **global perspective** and **respect for cultural differences** and **similarities**
- To promote a **mindset of improvement**: think not only of what is, but what can be.

**State Gifted & Talented Goals - Texas Education Agency**

<http://tea.texas.gov/index2.aspx?id=6420>

**NISD GT & Enrichment Brochure**

[https://nisd.net/gtpaa/sites/gtpaa/files/documents/GTE\\_Brochure-2015-print%20%281%29\\_0.pdf](https://nisd.net/gtpaa/sites/gtpaa/files/documents/GTE_Brochure-2015-print%20%281%29_0.pdf)



# NISD ALPHA Standards

## Performance reports -

- Twice a year - End of Fall & Spring Semester
- Performance Reports are based on **8 domains**
  - Creative Thinking
  - Critical Thinking
  - Vocabulary
  - Intelligent Behaviors
  - Depth and Complexity
  - Research
  - Effective Communicator
  - Responsible Citizen/Leadership

### ALPHA Performance Ratings

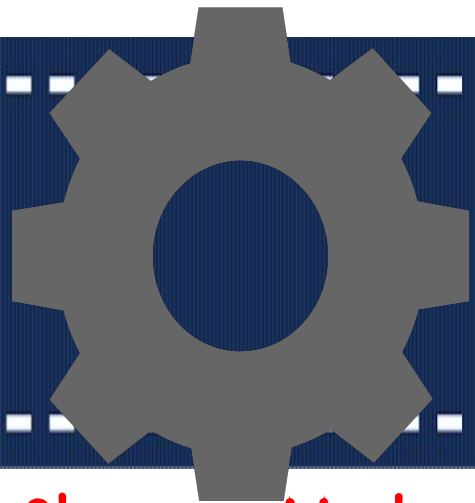
**Exceeds Expectations - 4**

**Meets Expectations - 3**

**Satisfactory - 2**

**Unsatisfactory - 1**





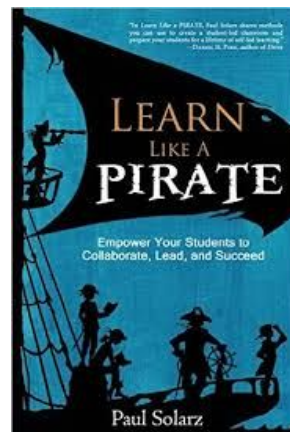
# Classroom Goals

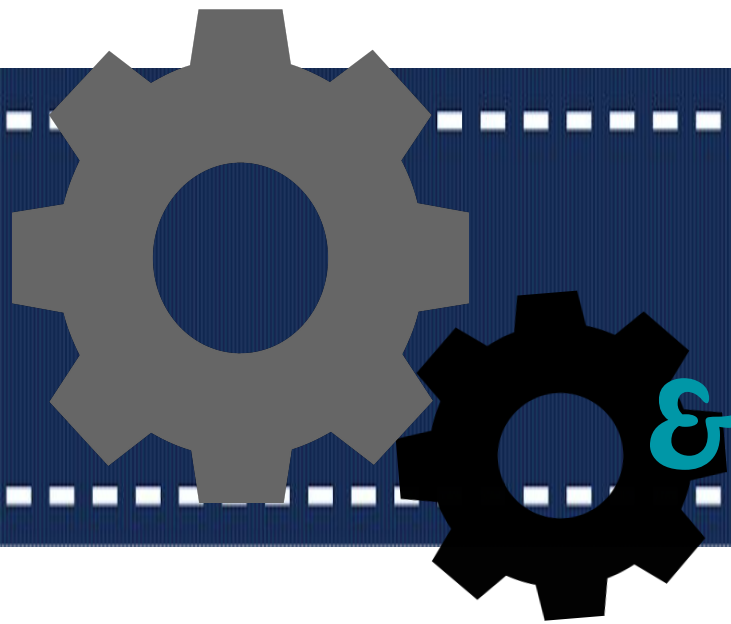
## Classroom Mindset

My goal as a teacher is to create lifelong learners and independent thinkers. I believe that students need the characteristics of confidence, curiosity, independence and collaboration so they can be successful not only in school, but throughout their life. These expectations tie back to our State and NISD GT expectations.

In order to achieve these goals students will learn like...

- P** - Peer Collaboration
- I** - Improvement vs. Completion
- R** - Responsibility
- A** - Active Learning
- T** - Twenty-First Century Skills
- E** - Empowerment
- S** - Scholars





# Communication & Scholarly Behaviors

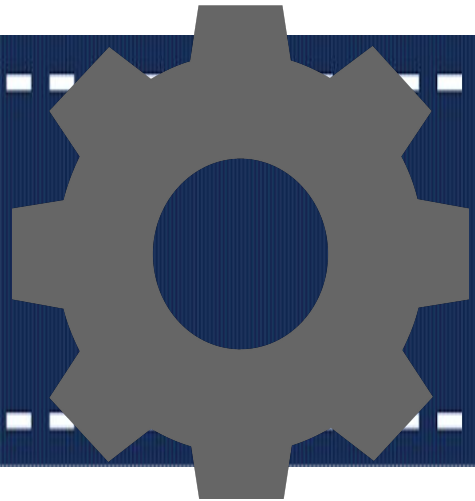
- **Parent/Teacher Communication** - Email, conferences, weekly newsletter, blog, Remind, student “Reflections” (in ALPHA Binder)
- **Scholarly Expectations** - brings materials to class, signed binders, completes homework and/or projects





# Guidelines

- Students will never miss rotation or special school events due to ALPHA.
- **Homeroom class work** - students are not expected to complete classroom work while in ALPHA, UNLESS it is a class project or if the student began the assignment prior to ALPHA class. Please contact GT teacher if you have concerns.



# ALPHA Focus

## 2016-2017

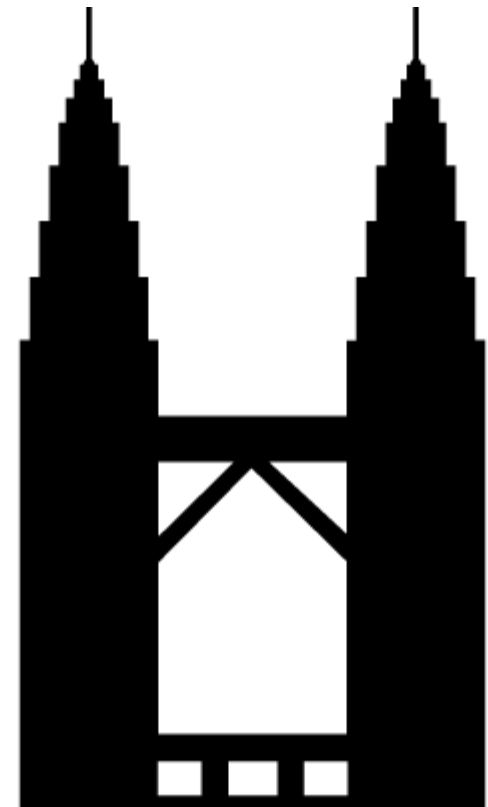
# Structures & Architecture

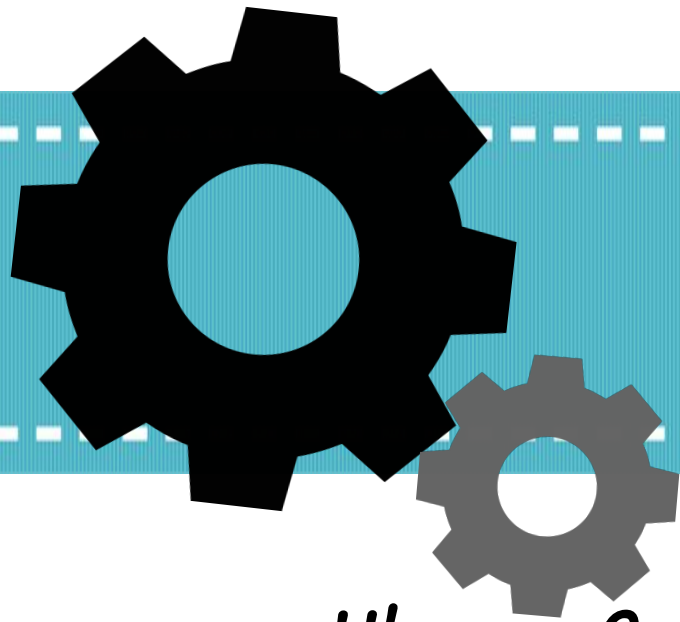




# Curriculum Map

- Foundations
- Columns
- Domes
- Tunnels
- Skyscrapers
- Bridges
- San Antonio Architecture
















# Research

Ultimate Goal - Examine a real world problem/issue and create possible solutions/ideas to better the issue.

- Integrated with Depth and Complexity
- Begin Research - January
- More details come later

Depth & Complexity



# Field Trip



*Downtown San Antonio Walking Tour*  
*Thursday, November 3, 2016*

- ALPHA Field Trip 3rd-5th Grade Only
- Parents Needed - As docents for specific structures or chaperones to accompany the students
- More information will follow as date approaches.





# Contact Information

## **4th & 5th Grade**

Sasha Chervinskis

210-397-4644

[sasha.chervinskis@nisd.net](mailto:sasha.chervinskis@nisd.net)

## **1st, 2nd, 3rd Grade**

Amie Moore

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[amie.moore@nisd.net](mailto:amie.moore@nisd.net)

Please email us to schedule a conference.