

School for the Talented and Gifted

Application Information Packet

This Application Information Packet is intended to provide you with everything you need to know to apply to TAG for admission for the 2016-2017 school year. **The application deadline is Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.**

If you have any questions on the application process or packet, please feel free to call our office at 972-925-5970 or visit us at any of our upcoming open house events.

November 17, 2016 – TAG Parent Information Night from 6:00 – 8:00 pm.

December 7, 2016 – TAG/Townview Open House from 6:00 – 8:00 pm.

Contents

Section 1: Application Qualifications	2
Section 2: Application Process Overview	3
Section 3: What to Expect During the Application Session	4
Section 4: Application Scoring	5
Component 1: GPA (7 th and 8 th grade).....	5
Component 2: Creative Project.....	6
Component 3: Critical Reading Activity	8
Component 4: Interview	8
Component 5: On-Site Essay.....	9
Component 6: Reasoning and Math Activity	10
Section 5: Selection Process.....	11

Section 1: Application Qualifications

To be eligible for application to TAG, applicants must meet two requirements:

1. **GPA:** Applicants must have a grade point average of at least 82 in the core subjects (English, mathematics, science, and social studies) for last year and the first half of this current school year.
2. **Test Scores (STAAR or other standardized test):**

Applicants with STAAR scores:

Grade 7 STAAR: Average ELA/Math Score of: 1780; No single score lower than 1700

Grade 8 STAAR: Average ELA/Math Score of: 1780; No single score lower than 1700

Applicants without STAAR scores must have taken one of the tests listed below no earlier than 7th grade and must have averaged at or above the 80th percentile in the math and English sections, with no single score below the 75th percentile.

- ReadiStep
- Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS)
- Iowa Test of Educational Development (ITED)
- Logramos
- Terra Nova
- Stanford Achievement Test Series (SAT 10)
- California Achievement Tests (CAT)
- Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)
- Metropolitan Achievement Tests (MAT)
- Tests of Achievement and Proficiency (TAP)
- Educational Records Bureau (ERB)
- Woodcock-Johnson Tests of Achievement

Prospective applicants without STAAR or other exam scores can take a different, district-approved and administered test. These tests are administered by Dallas ISD throughout January. To set up a testing date, call the TAG office at 972-925-5970.

If you have individualized questions concerning test scores, please call our office and we will be happy to help you.

If you meet the criteria outlined above for GPA and test scores, you are qualified to apply to TAG.

Section 2: Application Process Overview

Applicants who meet the qualification criteria outlined on the previous page may apply to TAG by following the process outlined below.

Applications will be accepted from December 5, 2016 to January 31, 2017 in the TAG office.

<p>Step 1</p>	<p>Read the article that TAG provides to you. The article will be available at www.tagmagnet.org, in the TAG office, and at TAG’s recruiting and information sessions.</p> <p>Design and carry out one of the types of projects specified in section four. SUBMIT ONLY ONE PROJECT. The purpose of this project is to showcase an applicant’s creativity in response to a reading piece while giving the applicant flexibility to choose the type of project they are interested in.</p> <p>Applicants should not spend more than 2 – 4 hours on this project in total. There will also be a brief 20-minute reading comprehension activity on the article during the application session.</p>
<p>Step 2</p>	<p>Fill out a magnet school application form online.</p> <p>This application will be available online at www.dallasisd.org and www.tagmagnet.org beginning on December 5, 2017.</p>
<p>Step 3</p>	<p>Submit the following to the TAG office before Tuesday, January 31, 2016 at 5:00pm:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Official transcript – The transcript should show the applicant’s grades from 7th and 8th grade. 2. Project – If the project does not fit into an 11x8x2 inch folder, please take pictures of it or record it and put it on a flash drive. 3. Proof of Residency – Applicants living within Dallas ISD boundaries will be given priority and will be considered in the first round of applications. Applicants living outside of Dallas ISD can still apply but will be considered only in the second round of applications.
<p>Step 4</p>	<p>Upon turning in the application and project, you will sign up for an application session on either February 4, 2017 or February 11, 2017.</p>
<p>Step 5</p>	<p>Attend the application session that you signed up for.</p> <p>Application sessions will take place from 9:00am – 12:30pm. Please arrive at TAG at 8:30am for registration.</p> <p>A detailed account of what to expect during the application session is on the following page.</p>

Section 3: What to Expect During the Application Session

During the on campus application session, prospective students will complete the following activities:

1. **On-site Essay** – Applicants will have 1 ½ hours to complete a hand-written essay. Applicants will choose one of three different prompts (similar to the examples below) and write an essay on that prompt during the allotted time. Applicants will not be able to use a dictionary or thesaurus.

Example Prompts:

- a. What invention would the world be better off without, and why?
- b. If you had the power to change three things in your community or in the world, what would you change and why?
- c. Using a piece of wire, a car window sticker, an egg carton and any inexpensive hardware store item, create something that would solve a problem. Tell us about your creation. Don't worry, we won't require proof that it works.

2. **Reasoning and Math Activity** – Applicants will complete a 30-minute timed reasoning and math activity. The student will be asked to discuss the reasoning portion during their interview.

This activity will consist of the following topics/concepts:

- Logical reasoning and problem solving
- 7th and 8th grade pre-algebra problems
- Basic Algebra I concepts

3. **Interview** – Applicants will participate in a 15-minute personal interview conducted by a panel of TAG faculty. All members of interview panels will go through extensive norming and scoring process prior to interviewing prospective students to ensure standardization of scoring of interviews. The interview will be comprised of two parts.
 - a. The first portion of the interview will be a 10-minute, 7-question interview.
 - b. The second portion of the interview will be a 5-minute segment where applicants will be asked questions regarding the logic and reasoning activity that they completed prior to the interview.
4. **Reading Comprehension** – Applicants will complete a 20-minute, 15-question reading comprehension activity about the assigned article. Because some applicants may have read the text and completed the project well before their application session, they should review the reading before their session.

Section 4: Application Scoring

To be considered for admission to TAG, the above activities will be scored as a portfolio with the following weights. Each component will be awarded points based on the criteria and rubrics.

Applicants can earn up to 100 points on the application components. Applicants must earn **at least 82** of the total points to qualify for admittance to TAG. The points awarded for each section of the application are as follows:

Application Component	Points Possible
GPA (7 th and 8 th grade)	10
Project: Creative Component	15
Project: Critical Reading Component	15
Interview	15
Essay	25
Reasoning and Math Activity	20
Total	100

Component 1: GPA (7th and 8th grade)

Due: Submit to TAG office between January 10 – January 31, 2017

Value: Up to 10 points

Scoring: Applicants must have a grade point average of at least 82 in their core subjects (English, mathematics, science, and social studies) for last year and the first half of this current school year.

Applicants will earn application points based on the following categories:

Core GPA	82 – 85	86 - 90	91 - 95	96 - 100
Points Received	4 points	6 points	8 points	10 points

Component 2: Creative Project

Due: Submit to TAG office between January 10 – January 31, 2017

Value: Up to 15 points

You must choose ONE of the following projects to complete in response to the assigned article, “The Really Big One.” Each project will be evaluated using the rubric on the following page.

<p style="text-align: center;">Fine Arts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual arts: You may create one piece of visual art (drawing, painting, sculpture, or work in other media). • Performing arts: You may respond to the article with an original work (music, dance, theater, or film) that is under five minutes long. <p>In addition, you must submit a one-paragraph (1 page or less in Times New Roman 12 point type, double-spaced) that explains how your art is a response to the article.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Language Arts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiction: You may write a piece inspired by a person, object, or situation in the article. No poetry. • Non-fiction: You may write a piece analyzing a historical event or an issue related to the article. <p>Your piece may be no longer than 3 pages, double-spaced, in Times New Roman 12-point type with one inch margins.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event: You may create a proposal for an event to raise awareness about an issue related to the article. You do <i>not</i> have to hold the event. • Argument: You may take a position (for or against) an issue related to the article and present an argument to support your position. <p>Leadership projects may be submitted as a website, in presentation software (PowerPoint or other software, no more than 7 slides) or in written form (no longer than 3 pages, double-spaced, in Times New Roman 12-point type with one inch margins.)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Science/Math</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building: You may build a model that uses or demonstrates science or technology relevant to the article. • Experiment: You may create a proposal for an experiment to test a hypothesis on a topic related to the article. You do <i>not</i> have to carry out the experiment. <p>In addition, you must submit a one-paragraph (one page or less in Times New Roman 12 point, double-spaced) that explains how your project is a response to the article.</p> <p>If you built a model, you must submit plans and pictures instead of the model itself. You must also explain the process you went through to design the model.</p>

Remember, these guidelines must be followed:

- The project must be an individual project. No group projects are accepted.
- The project must fit in an 11x8x2 inch folder when you turn it in to the TAG office. If your project is larger than the folder, we ask that you document your project with photographs and/or video and submit the documentation.
- Any outside information used in the project must be identified by author, title, and publication.

Submission Requirements

- Any videos submitted must be in .mov format.
- Any photos must be in a .jpeg format or printed.
- Any media must be accessible through an internet link or self-contained on a flash drive.

If you do not have access to a computer and/or printer at home or at school, please contact the TAG Office.

Criterion	1 point	2 points	3 points	4 points	5 points	
QUALITY ("Outside information" refers to any ideas not found in the article.)	Project is disorganized. Written work does not follow standard rules of grammar/spelling. Any outside information used is not cited. Most project guidelines are not followed.	Project is partially organized. Written work follows some standard rules of grammar/ spelling with many errors. Most outside information used is not cited. Most project guidelines are followed.	Project is mostly neat and organized. Written work generally follows standard rules of grammar/spelling with some errors. Most outside information used is cited. All project guidelines are followed.	Project is neat and organized. Written work follows standard rules of grammar/spelling with no errors. All outside information used is cited, and any outside sources are cited. All project guidelines are followed.	Project is neat and exceptionally well organized. Written work displays exceptional style and mastery of standard rules of grammar/ spelling. All outside information used is cited. All project guidelines are followed.	
RESPONSE TO ARTICLE	No evidence of connection between the project and article.	Minimal evidence of connection between the project and article.	Adequate evidence of connection between the project and article.	Significant evidence of connection between the project and article.	Exceptional evidence of connection between the project and article.	
CREATIVITY	Fine Arts	No evidence of creativity; project reproduces ideas in the article without building on or adapting them.	Some evidence of creativity; project minimally builds on or adapts ideas in the article.	Evidence of creativity is clearly present; project builds on or adapts ideas in the article.	Project shows significant creativity in building on or adapting ideas in the article.	Project shows exceptional creativity in building on or adapting ideas in the article.
	Language Arts	No evidence of creativity; project reproduces ideas in the article without building on or adapting them.	Some evidence of creativity; project minimally builds on or adapts ideas in the article.	Evidence of creativity is clearly present; project builds on or adapts ideas in the article. Nonfiction project shows some evidence of outside research.	Project shows significant creativity in building on or adapting ideas in the article. Nonfiction project shows significant evidence of outside research.	Project shows exceptional creativity in building on or adapting ideas in the article. Nonfiction project shows exceptional evidence of outside research.
	Leadership	No evidence of creativity; project reproduces ideas in the article without building on or adapting them.	Some evidence of creativity; project minimally builds on or adapts ideas in the article.	Evidence of creativity is clearly present; project builds on or adapts ideas in the article. Project shows some evidence of outside research.	Project shows significant creativity in building on or adapting ideas in the article. Project shows clear evidence of using outside research to shape ideas present in the project.	Project shows exceptional creativity in building on or adapting ideas in the article. Project shows clear evidence of using outside research to shape ideas present in the project.
	Math / Science	No evidence of creativity; project reproduces ideas in the article without building on or adapting them.	Some evidence of creativity; project minimally builds on or adapts ideas in the article.	Evidence of creativity is clear; project builds on or adapts ideas in the article. Experiment: Project shows some evidence of using outside research and knowledge of the scientific method. Building: Project shows some evidence of using outside research and personal experiments to shape ideas present in the project.	Project shows significant creativity in building on or adapting ideas in the article. Experiment: Project shows clear evidence of using outside research and mastery of the scientific method. Building: Project shows significant evidence of using outside research and personal experiments to shape ideas present in the project.	Project shows exceptional creativity in building on or adapting ideas in the article. Experiment: Project shows clear evidence of using outside research and exceptional mastery of the scientific method. Building: Project shows exceptional evidence of using outside research and personal experiments to shape ideas present in the project.

Component 3: Critical Reading Activity

Due: Completed during TAG Application Session

Value: Up to 15 points

Scoring: During the application session, applicants will complete a 20-minute, 15-question critical reading activity. The 15 multiple choice questions will relate to the assigned article that was used as the basis of the project.

One point will be awarded for each question answered correctly. The activity will consist of basic 8th and 9th grade level comprehension and analysis questions. The text will be available for reference during the critical reading assessment, but applicants should not expect to have enough time to read the text during that time.

Component 4: Interview

Due: Completed during TAG Application Session

Value: Up to 15 points

Scoring: Applicants will participate in a 15-minute personal interview by a panel of TAG faculty. All members of interview panels will go through extensive norming and scoring process prior to interviewing applicants to ensure standardization of scoring of interviews.

The interview will be comprised of two parts. The first portion of the interview will be a 10-minute, 7-question interview. At least one of the seven questions asked will inquire about the student’s project and/or the assigned article. Each interviewer on the panel will give the applicant a score out of 7 for their interview.

The final interview score will be the sum of the individual interviewer’s scores plus one, for a maximum of 15 points.

Scores on for the interview will range from 1-7 as follows:

1 – 2	Inadequate and incomplete responses
3 – 5	Adequate and complete responses
6 – 7	Outstanding, deep, and meaningful responses

The second portion of the interview will be a 5-minute segment in which applicants will be asked questions regarding the reasoning and math activity that they completed prior to the interview. Applicants will be informed what questions they will be asked about when they begin reasoning and math activity. These points are not included in the 15 points above; they will count as part of the reasoning and math activity points.

Component 5: On-Site Essay

Due: Completed during TAG Application Session

Value: Up to 25 points

Scoring: Essay scores will reflect a judgment of each essay’s quality as a whole. Each essay will be evaluated as a draft, with applicants being rewarded for what they do well.

Applicants’ essays will be evaluated based on the following categories, earning up to 5 points in each category for a total of up to 25 points.

Criterion	1-2	3-4	5
Clarity	Difficult to follow Issues with sentence structure and phrasing significantly undermine the essay’s content	Clear and easy to follow Issues with sentence structure and phrasing do not detract from the content of the essay	Clear and easy to follow Sentence structure and phrasing enhance the content of the essay
Creativity	Very little original and creative thought	Original and creative thought evident in writing	Exceptional creativity and original thought evident throughout the essay
Effectiveness	Presentation of ideas is ineffective. Author offers little to no support of ideas/claims.	Presentation of ideas is adequate. Author adequately supports ideas/claims made	Presentation of ideas is exceptional and effective. Author supports ideas/claims effectively and in a manner that enhances readability
Organization	Ideas and writing are disorganized. Fails to follow standard essay form*	Ideas and writing are adequately organized. Utilizes standard essay form* adequately	Ideas and writing are organized exceptionally Standard essay form* used in a way that enhances ideas and writing
Overall Quality	Author either does not address the prompt or addresses the prompt inadequately Writing is not engaging and does not exhibit thoughtfulness	Author has adequately addressed the prompt. Writing may be engaging and shows evidence of thoughtfulness.	Author clearly and thoroughly addresses the prompt. Writing is highly engaging and thoughtful.

*Standard essay form includes, but is not limited to clearly-defined paragraphs, varied sentence structure, and effectively ordered content.

Component 6: Reasoning and Math Activity

Due: Completed during TAG Application Session

Value: Up to 20 points

Scoring: Applicants will complete a 30-minute timed reasoning and math activity comprised of two different parts.

The first portion will be a 20-minute, 15-question basic math and reasoning activity comprised of questions covering the following topics:

- **7th and 8th grade pre-algebra:** order of operations, operations with fractions, basic word problems
- **Basic Algebra I concepts:** writing algebraic expressions, solving basic algebraic equations, working with linear equations, and simplifying basic algebraic expressions involving order of operations and exponents

Applicants can earn **up to 15 points in this portion**, with each of the 15 questions earning 0, 0.5, or 1 point based on the answer and work provided by the student.

The second portion will be a 10-minute reasoning activity where applicants grapple with a logic puzzle. Applicants will be asked to explain their process and answer in the interview.

Applicants can earn **up to 5 points for this portion**, based on their answer and their response in the interview.

Section 5: Selection Process

Applicants to Dallas ISD magnet schools will be considered by only one school at a time. In-district applicants who list TAG as their first choice school will be considered in the first round of the application process. In-district applicants who list TAG as second choice school and out-of-district applicants will be considered in the second round of acceptances.

We have an enrollment cap of 260 students, 65 for each grade level. **We currently hope to offer acceptance to 65 freshmen and 2 sophomores this year. Should we not have 2 sophomores qualify, those seats could be given to the freshman class.**

Available slots will be awarded in the following order:

- 30% of available seats (20 seats for the 9th grade class) will be awarded to the in-district applicants with the highest total score on the application scoring.
- 70% of available seats (the remaining 45 seats for 9th grade class) will be awarded within the Dallas ISD feeder patterns based on application score. Applicants will be ranked by score in their respective feeder pattern and only compete against other applicants from that feeder pattern. The number of slots per feeder pattern is determined by the percentage of 8th grade students enrolled in Dallas ISD schools in that feeder pattern.
- After all of the qualified in-district applicants (those who meet the minimum admissions requirements) have been awarded slots, remaining slots will be awarded to out-of-district applicants based on their application portfolio score.

Qualified applicants who are not selected due to limited space will be placed on a waiting list in order of application portfolio score.

Applications will remain active until the beginning of the second six weeks of the fall semester, and student vacancies will be filled until that time.