

## 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 2018-2019 school year. **The application deadline is Wednesday, January 31, 2018 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 16, 2017** – TAG Parent Information Night from 6:00 – 8:00 pm.

**December 6, 2017** – TAG/Townview Open House from 6:00 – 8:00 pm.

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## 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: 1735; No single score lower than 1696 (Reading) and 1700 (Math).

Grade 8 STAAR: Average ELA/Math Score of: 1760; No single score lower than 1725 (Reading) and 1719 (Math).

**Applicants without STAAR scores** must have taken one of the tests listed below no earlier than 7<sup>th</sup> grade and must have averaged at or above the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile in the math and English sections, with no single score below the 70<sup>th</sup> percentile.

- ReadStep
- 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)
- Sylvan Insight
- 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 4, 2017 to January 31, 2018 in the TAG office.

Step 1	<p>Read the article that TAG provides to you. The article will be available at <a href="http://www.tagmagnet.org">www.tagmagnet.org</a>, 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. <b>SUBMIT ONLY ONE PROJECT.</b> 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.</p>
Step 2	<p>Fill out a magnet school application form online.</p> <p>This application will be available online at <a href="http://www.dallasisd.org">www.dallasisd.org</a> and <a href="http://www.tagmagnet.org">www.tagmagnet.org</a> beginning on December 4, 2017.</p>
Step 3	<p>Submit the following to the TAG office before Wednesday, January 31, 2018 at 5:00pm:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Official transcript &amp; Test Scores</b> – The transcript should show the applicant’s grades from 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade.</li> <li>2. <b>Project</b> – 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.</li> <li>3. <b>Proof of Residency</b> – 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.</li> </ol>
Step 4	<p>Upon turning in the application and project, you will sign up for an application session on either February 3, 2018 or February 10, 2018.</p>
Step 5	<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 1½ 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.

This activity will consist of the following topics/concepts:

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

3. **Interview** – Applicants will participate in a 10-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 a 10-minute, 7-question interview.

4. **Reading Comprehension** – Applicants will complete a 25-minute reading activity comprised of multiple choice and/or short answer questions. The reading portion will be comprised of three different sections including types of reading across different disciplines and will require students to analyze information and draw conclusions accurately.

## 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 70** 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 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade)	10
Creative Project	15
Critical Reading (On-Site)	15
Interview (On-Site)	15
Essay (On-Site)	25
Math Activity (On-Site)	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

### Component 1: GPA (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade)

**Due:** Submit to TAG office between December 4, 2017 – January 31, 2018

**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:

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

## Component 2: Creative Project

**Due:** Submit to TAG office between December 4, 2017 – January 31, 2018

**Value:** Up to 15 points

You must choose ONE of the following projects to complete in response to the assigned article, “Lost in the Siberian Taiga.” Each project will be evaluated using the rubric on the following page.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fine Arts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Visual arts:</b> You may create one piece of visual art (drawing, painting, sculpture, or work in other media).</li> <li>• <b>Performing arts:</b> You may respond to the article with an original work (music, dance, theater, or film) that is under five minutes long.</li> </ul> <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;"><b>Language Arts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fiction:</b> You may write a piece inspired by an issue, theme, or idea in the article. No poetry.</li> <li>• <b>Non-fiction:</b> You may write a personal essay describing an experience of your own that is related to an issue, theme, or idea from the article.</li> </ul> <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;"><b>Leadership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Event:</b> 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.</li> <li>• <b>Argument:</b> You may take a position (for or against) an issue related to the article and present an argument to support your position.</li> </ul> <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;"><b>Science/Math</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Building:</b> You may build a model that uses or demonstrates science or technology relevant to the article. You will not submit the actual model. Instead, you will submit plans and captioned pictures of the model along with a written description of the process you went through to design the model.</li> <li>• <b>Experiment:</b> 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.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, you must submit a one-paragraph (one page or less in Times New Roman 12-point type, double-spaced) that explains how your project is a response to the article.</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
<b>QUALITY</b>  ("Outside information" refers to any ideas not found in the article.)		Project is disorganized.  Written work does not follow standard rules of grammar / punctuation. 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/ punctuation 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 / punctuation 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 / punctuation with minimal errors. All outside information used is cited.  All project guidelines are followed.	Project is neat and exceptionally well organized.  Written work displays exceptional clarity and mastery of standard rules of grammar / punctuation. All outside information used is cited.  All project guidelines are followed.
<b>RESPONSE TO ARTICLE</b>		No/Minimal evidence of connection between the project and article.		Adequate evidence of connection between the project and article.		Exceptional evidence of connection between the project and article.
<b>CREATIVITY</b>	<b>Fine Arts</b>	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.
	<b>Language Arts</b>	No evidence of creativity; project reproduces ideas in the article without building on or adapting them; OR writing shows lack of focus and/or thoughtfulness.	Some evidence of creativity; project minimally builds on or adapts ideas in the article; OR writing shows minimal signs of focus and/or thoughtfulness.	Evidence of creativity is clearly present; project builds on or adapts ideas in the article; AND writing shows signs of focus and thoughtfulness.	Project shows significant creativity in building on or adapting ideas in the article; AND writing is focused and thoughtful.	Project shows exceptional creativity in building on or adapting ideas in the article; AND writing is exceptionally focused and thoughtful.
	<b>Leadership</b>	No evidence of creativity; project reproduces ideas in the article without building on or adapting them.  Project fails to use outside research in a meaningful way.	Some evidence of creativity; project minimally builds on or adapts ideas in the article.  Project fails to use outside research in a meaningful way.	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.
	<b>Math / Science</b>	No evidence of creativity; project reproduces ideas in the article without building on or adapting them.  Project fails to use outside research and/or personal experimentation in a meaningful way.	Some evidence of creativity; project minimally builds on or adapts ideas in the article.  Project fails to use outside research and/or personal experimentation in a meaningful way.	Evidence of creativity is clear; project builds on or adapts ideas in the article.  Project shows some evidence of outside research and/or personal experimentation to shape ideas present in the project.  For experiment, project shows knowledge of the scientific method.	Project shows significant creativity in building on or adapting ideas in the article.  Project shows significant evidence of outside research and/or personal experimentation to shape ideas present in the project.  For experiment, project shows mastery of the scientific method.	Project shows exceptional creativity in building on or adapting ideas in the article.  Project shows exceptional evidence of outside research and/or personal experimentation to shape ideas present in the project.  For experiment, project shows exceptional mastery of the scientific method.

### Component 3: On-Site Critical Reading Activity

**Due:** Completed during TAG Application Session

**Value:** Up to 15 points

**Scoring:** Applicants will complete a 25-minute critical reading activity comprised of multiple choice and/or short answer questions. The reading portion will be comprised of three different sections including types of reading across different disciplines and will require students to analyze information and draw conclusions accurately.

Points will be awarded for each correct answer, including partial credit where applicable.

### Component 4: On-Site Interview

**Due:** Completed during TAG Application Session

**Value:** Up to 15 points

**Scoring:** Applicants will participate in a 10-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 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, thoughtful, and meaningful responses



### 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
<b>Clarity</b>	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
<b>Creativity</b>	Very little original and creative thought	Original and creative thought evident in writing	Exceptional creativity and original thought evident throughout the essay
<b>Effectiveness</b>	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
<b>Organization</b>	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
<b>Overall Quality</b>	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: On-Site 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.

The activity will be comprised of 10 brief sections covering different skills, with mastery of each section being worth up to 2 points each. On each of the given sections, applicants will be able to earn 0, 1, or 2 points.

Sections will cover the following topics:

- **7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade pre-algebra:** arithmetic, order of operations, operations with fractions, basic word problems, logic and reasoning
- **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

## 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, 2 sophomores, and 2 juniors this year.**

Available slots will be awarded in the following order:

- 30% of available seats (20 seats for the 9<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.