

## GT Testimonials

I have had 3 children go through the Quest program here at Southlake Carroll. I can tell you with certainty that when we were looking for a school district upon arriving to the Metroplex, a GT program was a must. I would not have considered a school district without a GT program.

It seems ludicrous that an educational institutional would not want to educate and cultivate the potential of the GT students.

Michele Scalzo

What other information would you like for me to know?

Savit, Grade 6

*I found out I am not that bad at art and can do things if I try. "Everyone is different or weird in their own way, but some people act normal. Those people don't realize that most great people are weird!" This is a quote I thought of...I am made fun of a lot but those people who make fun of me will be begging me for a job.*

What does "The Power of One" mean to you?

Paul, Grade 6

*It means that an individual can help make a big difference by standing strong in what they believe in and encouraging others to do the same. It also means that if a lot of people come together as one massive force, they can get a lot more progress than one person. In the game Risk, you can take 5 infantry units to make a cavalier, or 10 to make an artillery unit. It's because when several people work together, they go from many individuals to one powerful force.*

GTLA by Katie Burnham

Yes in LA you learn.  
You learn grammar  
And vocab  
If you're special...  
root words.  
Plus you read books  
and write papers.  
You study Shakespeare  
and analyze.  
What better way to spend  
your time?  
Yes in LA you learn.  
Write a thesis,  
complete a poster,  
and  
create a works cited.  
Yes in LA you learn.  
BUT in GTLA  
you discover!  
You fight, banter,  
"Socratic Seminar."  
You become a movie producer.  
Voice your opinions!  
Act out a play  
and  
create costumes.  
Make a blog.  
But wait it's a glog!  
In GTLA  
You discover yourself  
and your  
creativity  
voice  
potential  
freedom.  
In GTLA  
There's no holding back  
or holding on.  
There's no dull moment  
or false moment.  
Most of all  
there's no learning,

This is GTLA,  
We discover.

**How did this project help you learn about your own creative ability?**

***I didn't think I was very creative until I walked into the cafeteria and looked at the students. Their attention was set on the wall opposite the stage. I looked up. I was in awe. I couldn't believe I had been a part of this amazing picture. Everyone thought it was a drawing. They almost fell out of their chairs when they were told it was made of magazine pieces. I, all of a sudden, knew that I was special.***

**Kelley, Grade 5**

Another one.....

This is just too good not to share. As you know, I have asked my QUEST students to reflect upon the project we just completed and share their thoughts about some of the “big ideas” I was trying to hit on: communication, collaboration, etc. It has turned into a bit of a love-fest as students sit together amidst the bean bag chairs with their pencils and clipboards discussing the nuances of the “purpose” behind the project. They have discussed what “The Power of One” means...and how it relates to what we have experienced. We have discussed collaborating, communicating, self-confidence, teamwork, and Seven Blind Mice. The discussions are rich and bring me close to tears almost daily. Today was no exception.

I sat on a table leading the discussion while 8 fifth grade students sat on “the rug” in various bean bag chairs. We were deep into our discussion when one of the girls shared that her favorite part of the project was the feeling it gave her. She said that the other QUEST students were like a “family” to her and the QUEST class gave her a place to “belong”. I immediately thought of the social/emotional needs of these students and had to choke back the tears as I remembered what it was like to be a gifted, fifth-grade girl in the 1970s. We have come so far...and there are days, and moments like these, where I am reminded of the necessity of programs such as these.

I hope the QUEST program is not cut...not only for me and my family...but for all of the students like my fifth grader who understands the value of early identification for the gifted.

David: In first grade, math was really boring but when I went to Quest I got to do things at my level and it was a lot more fun!

Ryan: Quest and Accelerated Math are the only classes where I feel challenged and like I am learning something.

Bailey: I moved here in 7th grade and I didn't know anyone. The kids in my GTLA class were so nice and the teacher (Ms. Austin) is the best teacher I've ever had! All my good friends continue to be from that first GTLA class. I am taking 5 advanced classes now and the GT classes are the most interesting to me. I love learning in a creative environment with other kids who think the way I do.

David complained ALL LAST YEAR about being bored and not learning anything at school, especially in math, except for Quest. He finally stopped complaining after spring break when he got some enrichment for math with a new teacher, or it became leveled somewhat for the entire first grade. He really did not want to go to school or enjoy school all year because he was bored and not challenged. Also, he has complained about some friends who "don't get his jokes or understand his stories or ideas." The friends who DO "get it" are in Quest! Even at such a young age, these gifted kids gravitate towards each other and share common experiences with each other that the non-Quest kids just don't get. Our first year here, Ryan had his birthday party in April and I noticed that every boy he invited except for one (a neighbor) was in Quest! Not even HIS Quest pull-out class; these were friends he had met on the playground, etc. who were "like him"! And almost all my daughter's good friends are from her 7th and 8th grade GTLA class. Ms. Austin is still her favorite teacher (probably only because she never had you! 😊) and her 2 favorite teachers in high school so far are her 2 GT teachers!! (Mrs. Lowery and Mr. Beebe.) As a mother, I'm so thankful my kids are able to find other kids like them, and have teachers who teach in the way they need!! Thanks for all you do!