



## Monday Mail

December 14, 2009

1. **Winter Break:** There will be no school from Friday, December 18 - Friday, January 1st. Class will resume on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. Have a happy and safe holiday season and we look forward to seeing you in 2010!
2. **Honor Roll Assemblies:** Parents are welcome to join the HSE teachers in recognition of our students for their hard work and dedication this first semester. The schedule for the Award Ceremonies are as follows:
  - K-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:15
  - 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:05
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:15
  - 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:05
3. **3rd and 4th Grade GT Testing:** In an effort to accommodate the high demand of nominations for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade Gifted and Talented program, Harmony School of Excellence will be testing students on Wednesday December 16, 2009. Parents or legal guardians who would like to have their 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grade child formally assessed for the GT program are encouraged to fill out the "Consent to Test" form. Forms were handed out to the students on Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Please return the signed copy to your child's homeroom teacher no later than December 15<sup>th</sup>. Although testing is voluntary it is a required part of being in the gifted and talented program. If you do not wish to have your child tested you may remove them from consideration for the program by simply not filling out and/or returning the form by December 15<sup>th</sup>. Any child currently in the gifted program that is not tested will be removed from the gifted program at the beginning of the second semester (January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010). *\*\*Additional forms can be found on the HSE webpage under Monday Mail.*
4. **Help Wanted:** "High School Parents", we need your help. The high school students wish to have a dance in early February. Parents are needed to be the "sideline sweethearts". They will need chaperones, food, and help with decorations and clean-up. These students work hard and deserve a night of fun and camaraderie. Help us make this happen for them. Please come to a meeting Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm in the HSE library to find out more about this event.
5. **Holiday Parties:** 'Tis the season... the holiday parties will be held on Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-2:50PM. The homeroom parents (that we appreciate so much!) are busy planning activities & are contacting you with information about your class party. If you would like to assist with food/decorations or have questions regarding the party please contact your homeroom parent.



# GIFTED & TALENTED PROGRAM

**Harmony School of Excellence**  
7340 N. Gessner--- Houston, TX 77433  
713-983-8668



Dear 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents:

In an effort to accommodate the high demand of nominations for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade Gifted and Talented program, Harmony School of Excellence is pleased to offer formal testing for the GT program. Parents or legal guardians who would like to have their 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grade child formally assessed for the GT program are encouraged to fill out the attached "Consent to Test" form. Please return the signed copy to your child's homeroom teacher no later than December 15<sup>th</sup>. Testing will take place on Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Testing is voluntary; however, it is a required part of being in the gifted and talented program. If you do not wish to have your child tested you may remove them from consideration for the program by simply not filling out and/or returning the form by December 15<sup>th</sup>. Any child currently in the gifted program that is not tested will be removed from the gifted program at the beginning of the second semester (January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010).

Students do not need to study or prepare for GT testing. The tests are designed to measure students' current performance level and abilities in comparison to others of their same age and/or grade level. Abilities tests are supposed to test potential and be independent of direct teaching of content.

The selection process, conducted by the Harmony School of Excellence GT Committee, will consist of the following:

- The test score results
- Report card grades
- STAR Reading and Math reports
- Teacher observations
- Mock TAKS results
- Work Habits

The GT program is designed to offer enrichment in academics. Your signature indicates permission for your child to be tested for possible inclusion into the Harmony Schools Gifted and Talented Program. Your signature also indicates that you are aware that testing does not ensure placement into the program. It also indicates that students may be exited from the program for any reason deemed necessary by the GT Committee.

Thank you,

Diana Dunn  
Dean of Academics K-5  
Harmony School of Excellence

\*\*At this time we are only testing the 3<sup>rd</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup> grade due to the large number of nominations we received for that grade. We will begin testing other nominated students (K-2) at a later date.



# GIFTED & TALENTED PROGRAM

Harmony School of Excellence  
7340 N. Gessner--- Houston, TX 77433  
713-983-8668



## PERMISSION TO TEST

**PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN IT TO YOUR CHILD'S HOMEROOM TEACHER by December 15, 2009.** *If the form is returned later than December 15<sup>th</sup>, your child will be tested at a later date for inclusion in the program the following year.*

*I grant permission to Harmony School of Excellence to administer tests necessary for identification of Gifted and Talented students. (These tests may include but are not limited to the following: Iowa Test of Basic Skills, TerraNova Achievement test, or Standardized Test for Assessment of Reading and Math.)* \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

CHILD'S NAME: (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT / GUARDIAN NAME(S): (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBERS: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

HOMEROOM TEACHER \_\_\_\_\_

HAS YOUR CHILD PREVIOUSLY TESTED INTO THE GIFTED/TALENTED PROGRAM AT A DIFFERENT SCHOOL?

\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No Approximate Date (If known) \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

*It is the policy of Harmony School of Excellence not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in any programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. The GT program is designed to offer enrichment in academics. Your signature indicates permission for your child to be tested for possible inclusion into the Harmony Schools Gifted and Talented Program. Your signature also indicates that you are aware that testing does not ensure placement into the program. It also indicates that students may be exited from the program for any reason deemed necessary by the GT Committee.*