JEFFCO GT GAZETTE

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http://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/programs/gifted_talented

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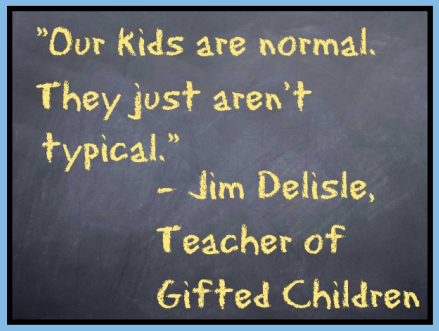
GIFTED PARENT ACADEMY

The Gifted and Talented Department is now offering four different online courses for parents through the Gifted Parent Academy including The Gifted Child, Social Emotional Needs, The Twice-Exceptional Child, and The Visual-Spatial (Non Verbal) Thinker. Courses are designed to help parents gain a deeper understanding of their gifted children and load up their tool boxes with effective strategies for greater success and well-being.

All classes are open enrollment and self-paced – start anytime and work at your own pace. The cost is only $35 per family. See the website for a course tour and registration information.



CAGT Conference/Parent Institute

The Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented (CAGT) will be hosting their 40th annual conference at the Embassy Suites in Loveland on October 16 & 17. There will be a variety of sessions for parents and educators, as well as a Parent Institute on the evening of Monday, October 16, focusing on "Understanding the Heart of Gifted Children Through Mindful Connections". Visit coloradogifted.org/conference for more information and registration.

CENTER APPLICATIONS

GT Center Application Deadline is Approaching!

We are now accepting applications for our GT Centers for the 2018-19 school year. Our fall application window is open through Oct 13, with testing on Nov 4. Spring application runs from Oct 16 - Jan 16, with testing on Feb 3. Visit our Application and Testing Information page to apply.

UPCOMING DATES

10/13: GT Center Application Deadline
See information above.

10/16-17: CAGT Conference (Loveland)
CO Association for Gifted & Talented

11/4: GT Center Testing (8:00 am - 4:00 pm)
Creighton MS; Evergreen MS

11/8-12: NAGC Conference (Charlotte, NC)
National Association of Gifted Children annual conference

Parent Seminars
See below for information

NURTURING CREATIVITY

At our Parent Seminar on Sept 25, Dr. Rick Shade presented to parents on Nurturing Creativity in Gifted Learners. He provided several fun activities and some tips on fostering creativity in our students. The presentation was very well received.

We will revisit this theme of creativity when Ian Byrd presents on "Creating 21st Century Innovators on February 25.

Help Stevens 6th Grade Class Solves Real-World Problems

The unique, gifted learners in Mr Dotterer's 6th grade GT class at Stevens Elementary are bringing STEM to life through robotics. The materials in the project will be used to solve problems such as water filtration, sustainable housing and model concepts of biomimicry. In order to fund materials for this project, Mr Dotterer has set up a Donors Choose opportunity for people to contribute to this effort. Please visit this link to help these students solve real world problems in meaningful ways.

WHAT'S IN A TEST?

Students engage in many types of tests and assessments throughout the school year. Here is a quick rundown of the different types of assessments your child encounters and how they are used.

Formative assessments are designed to guide the teacher in planning instruction. Examples of formative assessments include classroom assignments, short quizzes, questions in class, a ticket out the door, writing tasks, etc. More formal formative assessments include DIBELS (Dynamic Indicator of Basic Early Literacy Skills), DRA2 (Developmental Reading Assessment), and MAP testing (Measure of Academic Progress). Teachers use data from these formative assessments to gain a better understanding where students are at in order to plan learning opportunities that meet students' needs.

Summative assessments, on the other hand, provide information about whether or not students have, indeed, mastered the content. These may be end of unit tests, final exams, culminating projects, etc., or standardized tests such as CSAP/TCAP, PARCC, CMAS, Explore Test and ACT. Other tests in the field include the ITBS (Iowa Test of Basic Skills), Stanford Achievement Test, Peabody, Woodcock Johnson and the Terra Nova. All of these types of tests fall under the category of **achievement tests**, designed to measure skills that have been learned.

Cognitive tests, conversely, are designed to measure a student's innate intelligence or ability to learn. Cognitive tests are used far less frequently, and usually administered for a specific purpose. In Jeffco, all students are screened in second grade using the CogAT (Cognitive Ability Test), primarily to help identify giftedness and specific areas of strength. This assessment is likewise used as part of the application process for Gifted and Talented Center School placement and/or as part of the body of evidence to create an Advanced Learning Plan (ALP), a document that helps guide programming and brings the attention of strength areas to teachers so that this potential will continue to be cultivated. Other cognitive assessments may be administered to students for various purposes on a case-by-case basis.

To learn more about the different types of cognitive assessments and why they are used in conjunction with achievement tests, click here to read the entire article.

WRHS GT Student Honored

Congratulations to Tyler Burt (freshman, Wheat Ridge HS; previously at North Arvada Middle School and Hackberry Elementary) who was named as one of the top 300 MASTERS in the 2017 Broadcom MASTERS, a program of Society for Science & the Public. This honor places him among a select group of 300 MASTERS named from over 6,000 nominees throughout the United States. Tyler earned this spot with his science fair project from middle school called, "BPANIC?" which explored the effectiveness of polyester coatings in aluminum beverage containers. Being in the 300 MASTERS is a tremendous achievement, and we wish Tyler the best of luck in making it to the top 30 round!

Have a story about a GT student, class or event? Email it to gtinform@jeffco.k12.co.us and include pictures, if available!

SECONDARY ALPs: WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

As mentioned in our previous issue, we had our Colorado Gifted Education Review (CGER) from the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). They gave us some valuable feedback on ways we can improve our program, including next steps for our Jeffco Advanced Learning Plans (ALPs) for all gifted learners.

We have had **separate ALP systems for elementary and secondary** students for several years in Jeffco. The reason for going to a different system in grades 6-12 is so the system could integrate with Individual Career & Academic Plans (ICAPs), which are required for all secondary students in Colorado. The 'blending' of the ALP and the ICAP is completely accepted by CDE.

We do want to make sure our ALP processes are both *meaningful* and *manageable* for parents, students and teachers, and would like your input on how to achieve this. If you would like to be part of a **focus group on secondary ALPs**, please come to the Board Room at the Jeffco Ed Center on **November 29**, from 6:00 - 7:30. We value your feedback -- secondary GT students are also welcome to give input!

NEW GT IDENTIFICATION CATEGORIES

The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) has recently updated the categories for GT Identification. Jeffco is working to conform to these new categories, which will allow us to have greater accountability and precision in our identification processes. *No students will lose their gifted status or be removed from Advanced Learning Plans (ALPs) as a result of this change*, though the 'strength area' for some students may change to comply with the new CDE guidelines, below:

General Intellectual Ability (GIA) is "exceptional capability or potential recognized through cognitive processes (e.g., memory, reasoning, rate of learning, spatial reasoning, ability to find and solve problems, ability to manipulate abstract ideas and make connections)" [CDE, 2017.]

- All new students with a cognitive strength area will have the GIA focus area indicated on the ALP.
    - Most newly identified student(s) will also have a specific academic aptitude focus/strength area.
- All students formerly identified with a cognitive strength such as nonverbal, verbal or quantitative will now be designated using the GIA focus/strength area. Students formally identified prior to the new identification guidelines will be “grandfathered in” and will remain identified within Jeffco.
    - As we continue to build a body of evidence we will gradually add specific academic aptitude strength/focus areas as determined by qualifying data.

Specific Academic Aptitude is strength identified in a particular academic area based on a Body of Evidence including cognitive (CogAT or IQ testing), achievement (like CMAS or MAP testing), behavioral observations and performance data. These areas include Reading, Writing and Math, and we may be able to identify in Social Studies, Science and World Language when standardized qualifying evidence is available.

Specific Talent Aptitude can include areas like Creative Thinking, Leadership and Visual or Performing Arts. Jeffco is thoughtfully developing processes for identifying in these areas, and will have these available in the next few years..

Again, we will not remove any students from the ALPs or GT status as a result of this change, but the focus/strength area listed on the ALP will now reflect these outlined above.

PARENT SEMINARS

January 9, 2018 6:30-8:00 pm

TOPIC: Understanding your Student's CogAT Data

Jeffco Ed Center 5th Floor Boardroom
1829 Denver West Dr., #27
Golden, CO 80401

Make-up Date is January 10, 2018 in case of inclement weather.

January 29, 2018 6:30-8:00 pm

Various GT topics based on parent feedback, including sessions on Social-Emotional needs, Perfectionism and Secondary Planning for GT Students.

Jeffco Ed Center 5th Floor Boardroom
1829 Denver West Dr., #27
Golden, CO 80401

February 26, 2018 6:30-8:00 pm

SPEAKER: Ian Byrd

"Creating 21st Century Innovators"

GT students have the potential to make their own paths while earning a living doing something they love. Explore the nature & potential of giftedness with us!

Jeffco Ed Center 5th Floor Boardroom

CREATING 21st CENTURY INNOVATORS

IAN BYRD

Monday, February 26, 2018

6:30 - 8:00 pm

Jeffco Education Center - 5th Floor Board Room

1829 Denver West Dr.

Golden, CO 80401

Rapidly developing technologies have empowered the creative, quirky, and obsessesed (sound like anyone you know?) to use those traits to create their own careers. Gifted and talented students have the potential to make their own paths while earning a living doing something they love. We'll explore some case studies and look at new tools for communicating, publishing, and even getting paid.

Ian Byrd, one of the leading new voices in the field of gifted education and creativity, will be speaking. Ian is the author of the website byrdseed.com, which has a wealth of resources, articles and video clips on a variety of GT-related topics, including resources specifically for parents.

Parents of gifted children need access to a variety of resources , networking and support to help guide them through their child's academic journey.

The Gifted and Talented Department will be offering Parent Seminars in conjunction with JAGC (Jefferson County Association for Gifted Children. The presentations are prepared by various professionals on issues related to gifted children.

The parent seminars focus on supporting the children, parents and