



## December 2018 Newsletter

Note: This newsletter is intended to provide a wide array of information that readers may find helpful. In an effort to bring breadth of information, JAGC does not necessarily endorse or support opinions presented. JAGC also does not endorse, approve for services, or recommend any specific program mentioned.

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## Jeffco Gifted & Talented Department Programs/Information

### Jeffco Gifted & Talented Parent Seminars

#### **5 Topics to Choose From (2 Rotations) – January 28**

- Executive Function
- Social Emotional
- Early Access
- **Shopping for Post-Secondary Options – NEW TOPIC**
- GT 101

Monday, January 28, 2019

6:30-8 p.m.

Jeffco Education Center 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room

1829 Denver West Drive, Bldg #27, Golden

[Flyer](#) [Espanol](#)

#### **JAGC "Ask Us Anything" Panel – February 25**

Join the Jeffco Gifted & Talented Department, in conjunction with Jeffco Association for Gifted Children (JAGC) for an evening where you decide what you want to hear. We will have a panel that includes parents and educators who will share their experiences to help you navigate your own journey on a sometimes confusing path. Get answers to your burning questions and learn some tried and true strategies.

Monday, February 25, 2019

6:30-8 p.m.

Jeffco Education Center 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room

1829 Denver West Drive, Bldg #27, Golden

Previous GT Parent Seminar presentations can be found on [Jeffco's Parent Resources](#) page.

## Jeffco News

**EnrollJeffco** - ALL Jeffco students need to be enrolled through the new EnrollJeffco system. The important dates are:

Starting December 17: Go to [EnrollJeffco](#) to learn about the schools near you.

January 22 - February 8: Enroll in your current or neighborhood school (K-12), or apply to another Jeffco school (choice enrollment & preschool) at [EnrollJeffco](#).

Late February: If choice enrolling, you will receive notification of next steps via email.

All returning GT Center families will need to log into the new [EnrollJeffco](#) system between January 22nd and February 8th to indicate their intent to return to the Center or they will lose their spot. This process will replace the former paper/pencil Intent to Return forms.

[2 minute video](#) about EnrollJeffco.

[Virtual Academy Online Gifted & Talented Classes](#) - The Gifted and Talented Department, in collaboration with Jeffco's 21st Century Virtual Academy (JVA), offers Online GT courses. This school year the program will start with 7th grade core classes: GT Language Arts 7, GT Math 7/8, GT Science 7, and GT Social Studies 7. Classes are taught by certified GT teachers and offer the opportunity for GT students to participate in an engaging online curriculum that incorporates both the academic and social-emotional needs of gifted students. Families may work with JVA and their home schools in order to arrange for their gifted children to take one or more GT class during their school day in their area(s) of strength. All students are required to have an Advanced Learning Plan (ALP) and an eligibility form completed and approved by their home school's counselor or administrator. Please see this [page](#) for more information and to register. Course information is [here](#).

### [Jeffco Early Access](#) Testing for Entrance to Kindergarten or First Grade for the 2019-2020 School Year

Colorado House Bill 08-1021, Early Kindergarten and First Grade for Gifted Children, extend the definition of "gifted child" to include four-year olds who may be able to access Kindergarten and five-year olds who can access First Grade, and adds a new classification of "highly advanced gifted child."

Essentially, Early Access applies to children in the 97th percentile or above on standardized tests and functioning levels typically two years or more above peers.

For early entrance to kindergarten, a child must be 4 years old by October 1, 2019 and for early entrance to first grade, a child must be 5 years old by October 1, 2019.

How to apply for Early Access (the cost is \$250):

1. Fill out the online [application](#), which will open January 2, 2019.
2. Once the application is submitted, you will receive an Early Access Packet (with portfolio requirements) and Developmental History Form from the GT Office.
3. The Early Access Packet, Developmental History Form, and portfolio submissions will be due by March 21, 2019.
4. Parents will be contacted to schedule Cognitive Testing (DAS-II - Differential Ability Scales). Testing is typically scheduled in early April and takes approximately 2 hours.
5. If the child scores in the 97th percentile or higher on DAS-II, a second session will be

scheduled to take TEMA-3 (Test of Early Math Ability), TERA-3 (Test of Early Reading Ability), and an observable play opportunity. This testing takes approximately 2 hours.

6. Notification of acceptance and non-acceptance is typically sent to parents by early May.

Part of the Early Access process is submitting a portfolio of evidence. This may include examples of art work, writings, photos or videos of things that have been built or auditions. It may be documentation of connections the child has made. It may be statements from preschool teachers. Any way you can show what were 'wow' moments for you. Things you noticed that seem advanced for a child of their age at the time.

If accepted, Jeffco has four elementary schools offering Early Access: Coronado, Hackberry Hill, Kendrick Lakes, and Parmalee. GT Early Access follows the Choice Enrollment process. Transportation is not provided to Early Access locations and is the responsibility of the parent.

## National News

### Changes in IQ testing

The National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) has created a [position paper](#) on the changes in the WISC-V (The Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children), the most common assessment tool for intelligence. NAGC raises the issue that this new tool, with its shorter administration time, could lead to underidentification of the gifted, who often have slow processing speeds due to perfectionism and thoroughness. Please read to best advocate for your child.

## Educational

[Colorado Student Leaders Institute \(COSLI\)](#) is a state-legislated, summer residential program on the University of Colorado Denver campus. For one month each summer, Colorado's best and brightest students, chosen from a competitive pool of applicants, live and study on the campus, and earn three hours of college credit. Students choose one of two majors: International Social Studies or STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Math), and explore diverse topics through a lecture series by university professors and 3 hands-on projects--Colorado Social Problem Lab, Short-Term Business Lab, and National History Day.

COSLI students do not have to be formally designated as gifted and talented students, but they must demonstrate through their application that they meet the academic rigors that the program requires. At least 50% of our students must be eligible for free and reduced lunch and/or be first generation college students.

COSLI prepares students for college by fostering leadership, independence, innovativeness, initiative, critical thinking, and creativity.

Application deadline is January 31, 2019. Find information [here](#).

### **[Center for Bright Kids Western Academic Talent Search \(WATS\) - PSAT 8/9, SAT, ACT Testing for Gifted Students in Grades 3-9](#)**

The [Center for Bright Kids](#) (CBK) is the regional talent center in the Rocky Mountain area, serving 7 states, providing summer programs and other youth programs. The goal of CBK is to "offer K-12 enrichment and acceleration programming for high interest and high ability kids. Our focus is not only on how kids think and learn, but how they discover ways to navigate the world while thinking and learning differently. CBK is focused on providing safe spaces for kids to laugh and play while being intellectually challenged with intensive academic experiences and actively engaged in meaningful, authentic learning experiences."

In addition to their youth programs, CBK also offers testing without ceilings, provided by the Western Academic Talent Search (WATS). The benefit of this testing is to find a child's true potential in Reading, English, Math, and Science at the given time they take the test. Typical assessments used by school districts only test one or two grades up, not demonstrating some children's true potential in a subject. WATS testing goes far beyond one or two grades. WATS uses ACT, SAT, and PSAT 8/9 tests. PSAT 8/9 is used for grades 3-6, while ACT and SAT are used for grades 6-9.

Testing is currently being offered. If your child has an Advanced Learning Plan (ALP), you will need to contact the [Jeffco Gifted & Talented Department](#) to receive the Jeffco GT Eligibility letter for WATS testing. Once they verify a student's GT status, they will send the necessary letter to you electronically. Your child can qualify to test in other ways too if you are interested. If you allow results to be reported to your school district, at least in Jeffco, they will become part of your child's ALP, further aiding your child's teachers in challenging him or her academically.

Information about [WATS testing](#). [Application](#).

Information about CBK [youth programs](#).

### **[Why Not Every Gifted Expert is an Expert on Your Child](#)**

Check out this informational [article](#) by Kathleen Casper, J.D.

**Colorado Association for Gifted & Talented (CAGT)** has made [Presenter Slides and Handouts](#) from the 2018 CAGT Conference available. Find presentations from previous conferences [here](#).

## JAGC

### Gifted Support Group - Littleton

Friday, December 21, 2018

Lunch Bunch 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (feel free to bring your own lunch or buy it there)

Southwest Plaza Mall

Bowles & Wadsworth, Main door entrance next to Bad Daddy's (entrance is on southwest side of mall between Dillard's and Macy's)

Please [RSVP](#) by Monday, December 17 for this Lunch Bunch. If no RSVP's are received, the meeting will be cancelled.

This group is a place to find support and get new ideas. Come share how things are going for your family, ask questions, and share your experiences with others who "get it." Please help JAGC volunteers plan their time and also reserve enough space. RSVP to [Shelly Morris](#), noting your name. Your RSVP also allows us to contact you in the event of a last minute cancellation.

The next Lunch Bunch will be Friday, January 25, 2019 (RSVP by January 21).

## Check our [Calendar](#) for Detailed Information on the Following Events

Denver Writes Holiday Gift Fair – [December 22](#)

Colorado School of Mines Winter Break Camps Grades 3-5 – [January 2-4](#)

Gifted Development Center Presents "Upping Your Happy Workshop" – [January 5](#)

SENG Model Parent Book Discussion Group: A Parent's Guide to Gifted Children by Dr. James Webb (daytime, evening and 2e sessions) – [January 10-March 7](#)

Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP) Conference in Grand Junction – [January 24-26](#)

CU Wizards: Surfing with a Mathematician! – [January 26](#)

Gifted Education Conference & Policy Symposium – [February 6-7](#)

Beyond Giftedness Conference – [February 22](#)

CU Wizards: Bioinspired Engineering with Buggy Robots – [February 23](#)

## Enrichment Corner

Jeffco Writing Challenge has two categories; [High School Students](#) and [K-8 Students](#). Submissions due by February 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Scholarships

**The Davidson Institute for Talent Development** offers high-achieving young people across the country the opportunity to be named a 2019 Davidson Fellow, an honor accompanied by a \$50,000, \$25,000 or \$10,000 scholarship in recognition of a significant piece of work in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, Music, Literature, Philosophy or Outside the Box. Applicants must submit an original piece of work that is recognized as significant by experts in the field and that has the potential to make a positive contribution to society. The scholarship may be used at any accredited college or university. The deadline to apply is February 13, 2019.

[Reviews.com](#) has created a [Scholarship Search Platform](#).

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