



JEFFERSON COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR GIFTED CHILDREN

November 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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A Note from JAGC

Please bear with us as we change our newsletter platform. We expect our December newsletter to use a new format. This month's newsletter will contain more of what our future newsletters will present. We will be moving more static information to our [website](#) and away from our newsletter, so please find your favorite pages there and bookmark them!

Jeffco Gifted & Talented Department Programs/Information

Jeffco Gifted & Talented Parent Seminars

Understanding Your Student's CogAT Data – December 12th

- If your child took the CogAT (this includes all district 2nd graders), you should receive CogAT results in the mail around the 1st week of December
- If you applied for Gifted & Talented Center placement, the decision emails will be sent to parents January 2nd – 4th
- If your child was accepted into a Gifted & Talented Center, open houses/tours will be happening January 9th – 25th
- Gifted & Talented Center Accept/Decline window is January 22 - February 8, 2019

CogAT 7 Parent Meeting

Wednesday, December 12, 2018

6:30pm - 8:00pm

1829 Denver West Drive, Bldg #27

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

- Executive Function
- Social Emotional
- Early Access
- Shopping for Post-Secondary Options
- GT 101

Monday, January 28, 2019

6:30pm - 8:00pm

Jeffco Education Center 5th Floor Board Room

1829 Denver West Drive, Bldg #27

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

JAGC "Ask Us Anything" Panel – February 25th

Join 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

6:30pm - 8:00pm

Jeffco Education Center 5th Floor Board Room

1829 Denver West Drive, Bldg #27

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 classes 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.

Jeffco School Start Time Parent Survey

[The School Start Time Task Force](#) (a volunteer group of parents and staff) is seeking parent input to gauge interest in later start times for secondary schools given the trade-offs and complexities. The [survey](#) ([Spanish](#)) is open from November 16 - December 10. All parents are encouraged to participate.

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 in January 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.

Jeffco [web page](#) for Early Access.

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.](#)

[Reviews.com](#) has created two guides parents might find helpful:
[Online Tutoring Guide](#) – Including a section for special needs students
[Scholarship Search Platform](#) Options

JAGC

Gifted Support Group - Littleton

Friday, November 30, 2018

Lunch Bunch 11:30am - 1:00pm (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, November 26th 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, December 21, 2018 (RSVP by December 17th) and Friday, January 25, 2019 (RSVP by January 21st).

Sensory Resources

JAGC just added a [Sensory Friendly](#) section to our [Resources - Web Sites & Books](#) page (scroll down about half way). Check out some ways to help your child who may have sensory overexcitabilities.

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

Young Adults Insider Perspectives on Autism – November 29th

Denver Art Museum Low Sensory Evening in Rembrandt – November 30th

CU Wizards - There's Something in the Air! – December 1st

Santa for Sensory Kids – December 3rd

Nurturing Relationships – Embracing the Inner Gifted Child presented by Patricia Gatto-Walden, Ph.D. – December 5th

Denver Art Museum Low Vision Event: Tactile Tables – December 14th

CU Wizards - Surfing with a Mathematician! – January 26th

Gifted Education Conference & Policy Symposium – February 6th – 7th

Beyond Giftedness Conference – February 22nd

CU Wizards - Bioinspired Engineering with Buggy Robots – February 23rd

Enrichment Corner

Coding with Kids offers after school programs for K-12 to learn computer programming.

Academic Earth (List of Free Online College Courses) provides a collection of over 750 free online college courses from the world's top universities. This is one of the few high caliber organizations that offer MOOCs (Massive Open On-line Courses). [MOOCs](#) provides parents (and students) a wide variety of courses that can feed them intellectually as well as their career (eg. nano credentials). From just advancing your understanding of best practices in education, to psychology, or American poetry, these classes are just a click away - and they are FREE!

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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