



# JEFFERSON COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR GIFTED CHILDREN

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## April 2019 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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## **JAGC News**

### **[2019 JAGC Board of Directors Election Results](#)**

We have concluded the election process for 2019. Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's voting procedure.

Congratulations to this year's elected directors:

**Guy Nahmiach: President**  
**Beth Clark: Secretary**  
**Amy Dougherty: At-Large**  
**Nancy Yanasak: At Large**  
**Joy Knox: At-Large**

We look forward to working with you all as we continue to serve the GT children and families of Jeffco and beyond.

### **[May JAGC Annual Membership Meeting - You're Invited!](#)**

The last JAGC Board Meeting of the school year will be held on May 2 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Colorado Plus 49 Cider & Pub, 1100 Arapahoe St., Golden CO 80401. Come meet the board members and we'd love to meet you! We're extending a special invite to our JAGC members and GT Ambassadors. All are welcome to join the JAGC Board in celebrating another year of advocating for gifted students in the Jeffco school district.

### **New GT Champion Award!**

The [GT Champion Award](#) is a new JAGC award program designed to recognize those in the gifted community who are making an exemplary effort for our GT students. If you would like to nominate a person who has shown outstanding performance, please complete the [nomination form](#) by Friday, April 26, 2019. Thank you for your help in recognizing outstanding GT Champions!

### **Gifted Support Group Littleton – April 19**

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.

### **Friday, April 19 (last meeting of the year) 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.**

Southwest Plaza Mall, Bowles and Wadsworth, main door entrance next to Bad Daddy's (entrance is on southwest side of mall between Dillard's and Macy's). Bring your lunch or buy it there.

Please [RSVP](#) by Monday, April 15 for this Gifted Support Group. If no RSVPs are received, the meeting will be cancelled.

### **JAGC Resource - Twice Exceptional**

Are you wondering if your child is 2e (twice exceptional: gifted with a disability like ADHD, dyslexia, visual processing issues, etc.)? Do you have a diagnosis for your child and know he or she is 2e? Check out this [JAGC web page](#) with resources to help you.

### **Become a JAGC Ambassador**

[JAGC Ambassadors](#) are parent volunteers who receive training in how to serve GT students, parents, and staff at the articulation area and school building levels. Ambassadors can serve neighborhood schools, charter schools, home school groups and preschools.

Ambassadors help develop strong family-school partnerships. The process can be tailored to each school and Ambassador according to motivation and availability. An Ambassador's process for building successful partnerships and programs usually consists of raising awareness, taking positive action to cultivate involvement and celebrating successes.

Short on time? This is an understandable concern and we don't want anyone to feel overwhelmed. First, you don't have to be an expert. An easy-to-use [Online Training](#) is available that you can do anytime. Second, one of the main functions of an Ambassador is to get GT information (which we will provide to you) to members of your school community (newsletters, websites, Friday Folders, etc.) Third, you can always share the role with others in your school or articulation area. Please contact the [JAGC Ambassador Coordinator](#) for more information.

### Legislative News - Call to Action

The Javitz Grant, which totals \$12 million in its budget, is the only federal money for Gifted and Talented students. The current administration's budget proposal for 2020 proposes that this funding be cut. NAGC has made a [position statement](#) on this, which may be of interest to our readers.

A call or letter to your congressmen may be of help to alert them to this inequity. If you feel inclined to educate them about the needs of the gifted, you may want to add the following facts:

- Most developed countries give significant funding to their gifted programming, recognizing these students as a resource for their country's future. US does not provide such generous funding.
- Studies suggest that No Child Left Behind has left gifted students behind. While NCLB was valuable legislation, the gifted are a recognized group under the Every Student Succeeds Act warranting appropriate services also.
- Roughly 20% of high school dropouts are gifted students, (while they represent on average 5 - 10% of all students). Lack of challenge is a frequently cited reason for students' decision to drop out.
- 20% of the prison population is identified as gifted.

**Cory Gardner:** [www.gardner.senate.gov](http://www.gardner.senate.gov), (202) 224-5941

**Michael Bennett:** [www.senator@bennet.senate.gov](mailto:www.senator@bennet.senate.gov), (202) 224-5852

## Jeffco Gifted & Talented Department Information

### Parent Seminar "Ask Us Anything" Questions + Answers

In February, the Jeffco Gifted & Talented (GT) Parent Seminar "Ask Us Anything" offered a panel of Jeffco GT Resource Teachers, high school students, and JAGC parents to answer questions from the audience. Since we ran out of time to answer them all, parents in attendance wrote down the questions they didn't have an opportunity to ask during the seminar. We have created a [document](#) with answers to those questions. We gathered information from those on the panel and others. This document has been significantly updated since we ran it in March.

### GT Showcases at Wheat Ridge High School and Arvada High School

Information will be presented on the high school GT program. Prospective students and families are invited to attend. For more information: 303-982-6650 or [email](#).

Wheat Ridge High School - April 27, 4-7 p.m.

Arvada High School - May 9, 5-6:30 p.m.

## Jeffco News

### [Jeffco 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 for 7th and 8th grade students. Classes are taught by certified GT teachers and offer the opportunity for middle school GT students to participate in an engaging online curriculum that incorporates both the academic and social-emotional needs of gifted students. 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 Virtual Academy 10th Anniversary Celebration – April 26](#)

Jeffco Virtual Academy (JVA) is celebrating 10 years of providing the opportunity to learn online. Since the school started in 2009, JVA has served more than 16,000 students and has grown substantially. All current and past families are invited to an Open House celebration on the JVA campus, 11025 W Glennon Drive, Lakewood CO 80226.

### [Warren Tech 2019-2020 Application](#)

The [Warren Tech](#) 2019-20 application is up and running. The online application can be found [here](#). If you have questions about the online application, contact [Denae Coates](#), 303-982-5614 or [Leslee Hampel](#), 303-982-8603.

### [Life After High School Job Fair - April 17](#)

Students in 9th through 12th grade are invited to the Jeffco Public Schools annual College and Career Fair - Life After High School. There will be information about every type of post-secondary option - community college, university, apprenticeships, military, employers hiring now and for summer, and school/community resources. The fairs are open to all Jeffco students and families (including those who are no longer enrolled). We will provide food to students and there will be an opportunity to win prizes.

### **Arvada High School**

#### **Wednesday, April 17**

2-5:30 pm (fair opens at 2 p.m. for Arvada students and at 2:30 p.m. for all other students)

## Educational

### [Architecture in the City Summer Program for High School – Deadline May 15](#)

University of Colorado Denver College of Architecture and Planning offers a summer, noncredit program called Architecture in the City for high school students. This is an interdisciplinary program designed for rising sophomores, juniors, seniors and recent high school graduates. The two-week camp will give participants the opportunity for a hands on experience in model building and drawing techniques while exposing them to architecture, landscape architecture, urban design and urban planning.

This commuter program will be offered at the University of Colorado Denver campus from Monday, June 3-Friday, June 14 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participants with and without design backgrounds are welcome. For questions about the camp please contact [leigh.mcfarland@ucdenver.edu](mailto:leigh.mcfarland@ucdenver.edu) or call 303-315-2528.

### [42nd Annual CAGT Conference – Oct. 21-22](#)

Mark your calendars for the Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented 42nd Annual Conference: *A Gifted State of Mind*, Oct. 21-22 at the Embassy Suites Loveland.

### [2019 Youth CAGT Impact Award](#)

Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented (CAGT) is pleased to announce the [2019 CAGT Youth Impact Award](#). This award (formerly known as the Distinguished Student Award) is designed to recognize in children ages 7-18, who have made a positive, meaningful, and beneficial impact on others in their classroom, school and/or community. New this year CAGT will be choosing four children from the state of Colorado who will be named CAGT Youth Impact Award Students: one student for the Junior Division (ages 7-9), and one student for the Senior Division (ages 10-12), and two students for the Masters Division (ages 13-18). All four students who are selected will receive a CAGT Certificate of Excellence and a cash reward.

CAGT encourages teachers, families and community members to recommend past or current students for this honor. The awards will be presented at the 2019 CAGT Annual Conference Awards Night this fall, which will be held at the Embassy Suites in Loveland, Colorado on the evening of October 21. CAGT will publish the names of the Youth Impact student winners in the conference program and the CAGT newsletter, *The Kaleidoscope*.

Application packet must be postmarked no later than June 15.

### [Area College & Job Fairs](#)

## **Check out the [JAGC Calendar](#) for Detailed Information on the Following Events**

Colorado Teen Literature Conference – [April 13](#)  
Gifted Development Center: First, Put on Your Oxygen Mask – [April 13](#)  
Online SENGinar: Giftedness is a Lifelong Journey – [April 13](#)  
Sensory Friendly Music and Art Show – [April 13](#)  
Angst Movie Screening – [April 16](#)  
IEP Webinars for Educators and Families – [April 17, 24](#), [May 1](#), [May 8](#)  
Jeffco College and Career Fair – [April 17](#)  
Parent Engagement Network: Raising a Resilient Student in Today's World – [April 17](#)  
CU Wizards: One Fish...Two Fish...Fluorescent Red & Green Squish – [April 20](#)  
Denver Astronomy Society Open House – [April 20](#)  
Denver Writes: World Building Workshop – [April 20](#)  
Weather and Science Day at Coors Field – [April 24](#)  
Parent Engagement Network: Natural Highs - Healthy Alternatives to Drugs & Alcohol – [April 25](#)  
Wrightslaw Special Education Law and Advocacy Training – [April 25](#)  
Jeffco Virtual Academy 10 Year Anniversary Event – [April 26](#)  
Wheat Ridge High School GT Showcase – [April 27](#)  
Tedx Dakota Ridge – [April 27](#)  
Wings Aerospace Academy Information Night – [April 30](#)

JAGC Annual Membership Meeting – [May 2](#)  
May the Fourth Celebration Wings Over the Rockies – [May 4](#)  
Tattered Cover Family Fun Night – [May 4](#)  
Arvada High School GT Showcase – [May 9](#)  
Denver Astronomy Society Open House – [May 9](#)  
CU Wizards - The Chemistry of Energy – [May 18](#)  
Denver Writes Day of Rock Workshop – [May 18](#)  
National Youth Summit: Woman Suffrage – [May 21](#)  
Wings Aerospace Academy Information Night – [May 21](#)

## Enrichment Corner

### [Nature Obscura: An Immersive Art Experience – Through April 28](#)

Natura Obscura is an immersive art experience at the Museum of Outdoor Arts that's like stepping into your favorite painting but where you can hear, smell, touch, and explore everything around you. It's part art museum and part virtual reality experience. Tickets are \$10-25. At the Museum of Outdoor Arts, Englewood Civic Center Building, 2nd Floor, 1000 Englewood Parkway #2-230, Englewood, CO 80110.

### [Behind the Wings TV Series](#)

Wings Over the Rockies now has a TV show. The in-house video series has been picked up by Rocky Mountain PBS (RMPBS) and season 1 will premiere on Friday, April 26 at 8 p.m. on RMPBS.

### [Johns Hopkins University Engineering Summer Program](#)

The semester-long course is condensed into four weeks and is made available to high school students in the summer. The course will be offered at Red Rocks Community College (RRCC), June 24-July 19.

### [Camp Neuro](#)

Camp Neuro, run by local medical students in over 30 cities nationwide, serves as an ideal introduction for any high school student interested in exploring a career in medicine or psychology. With a focus on both education and real world experience, Camp Neuro provides students with a unique opportunity to learn directly from experts in both the medical and psychological fields. In addition, this 1-week summer day camp provides a foundation for healthy living with an emphasis on both diet and exercise. Although Camp Neuro's primary focus is on care and maintenance of the brain as well as psychology, it provides an excellent starting point for careers in all fields of medicine.

### [JAGC Summer Programs List](#)

Here is [JAGC's list](#) of summer programs that includes enrichment opportunities around the area.

### [CSU Global Business Academy – Application Deadline May 1](#)

The Global Business Academy is a two-week program for students in grades 9-11 from July 7-19 at CSU's Mountain Campus in Pingree Valley near Bellvue, CO. The Academy provides students with a taste of college life as they learn about entrepreneurship, decision making and negotiation, sustainable enterprise, personal financial literacy, ethics and more. Last year, the academy had 39 high school students from 14 countries immersed in the fundamentals of business, entrepreneurship, collaboration and innovation. Applications will be accepted until May 1 but students are encouraged to apply early.

### [Student Opportunities](#)

Find a list of Gifted and Talented [Student Opportunities](#) from the Jeffco GT Department.

## Scholarships

### [Davidson Young Scholars Program – Applications Due First of Each Month](#)

The Davidson Young Scholars program provides free services designed to nurture and support profoundly gifted young people and their families, including talent development, educational advocacy, an online community and the Ambassadors program. Young Scholars can also access annual get-togethers, a summer camp for 8 to 12 year olds and challenging online middle school courses. Applications are due the first of each month.

### [25 Great Scholarships for Gifted Students](#)

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

### [CAGT Scholarship for Teachers in Title I Schools](#)

The CAGT Colorado Scholarship for Diverse Talent Development Program is now accepting applications. The primary purpose of this scholarship is to increase and support culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) students' access to talent development opportunities through teacher training.

The Colorado Scholarship is intended to support teachers working in Title I schools who are **new** to the field of gifted education. This opportunity provides teachers the tools for identifying and understanding the needs of underserved gifted learners. Selected candidates will attend the CAGT annual conference and participate in activities and/or presentations focusing on the fundamentals of gifted education with an emphasis on working with underserved populations.

For more information and to apply [click here](#). All application materials must be received by Monday, May 20. Please feel free to pass on to wonderful teachers who qualify.



## Connect With JAGC

### Are You a JAGC Member?

The Jefferson County Association for Gifted Children (JAGC) is a nonprofit group providing leadership and support to families and educators of gifted young people in Jefferson County, Colorado. Membership in JAGC includes joint membership in CAGT (Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented). Combined dues are \$40 annually.

Although JAGC often works in partnership with Jeffco Public Schools' Office of Gifted and Talented, JAGC is a volunteer organization. JAGC provides its newsletter and seminars to everyone in the community but membership, donations, and volunteers are essential to providing these resources.

Locally, through JAGC, your membership helps support things such as: seminars, presentations, and speakers; printed literature; this website (including the JAGC newsletter); JAGC on Facebook; local advocacy. Through CAGT, your membership helps support such things as: CAGT's annual conference, CAGT's annual Parent Institute, CAGT's website, monthly "Happenings" email, the quarterly Kaleidoscope e-newsletter, state level legislative advocacy for gifted learners, and online learning opportunities.

### Become a JAGC Member

Membership in JAGC and CAGT (Colorado Gifted and Talented Association) runs concurrent to the school year. Both are valid from September until August of the following year. You must be a member to vote in the spring JAGC election. When you register, be sure to select Jeffco as your affiliate. [Join](#) today and support gifted education in Jeffco!

### Support JAGC With Amazon Smile

Shop on Amazon through Amazon Smile and a portion of your purchase price will be donated to JAGC. When you shop at Amazon, first go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> and select "Jefferson County Association for Gifted Children" before making your purchase.

### Check Out JAGC on Facebook and Twitter

Did you know that JAGC is on Facebook? You can "Like" JAGC on Facebook and read GT and Jeffco-related information as part of your Facebook feed. JAGC also has a private Facebook group, JAGC Online for the purposes of discussion. To join "friend" Jeffco Gifted and send a Facebook message to request group membership or email for more information. A big thank you to Susan Carter-Ruskell for sharing great content on JAGC's social media!

[JAGC Facebook](#)

[JAGC Twitter](#)

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