



# JEFFERSON COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR GIFTED CHILDREN

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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's New Website Coming Soon!**

Our board member, Cindy Walker, has been working diligently preparing our new website. Once we have the finishing touches completed, it will be launched just after the first of the year. That means the links in this newsletter that are within our website will not work in the new website. Any external links will be just fine.

We can't thank Cindy enough for updating our site!

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## **Jeffco GT Parent Seminar - Understanding Your Student's CogAT Data - January 9, 2018**

The next Jeffco GT Parent Seminar will explain the CogAT test and how to understand your child's report.

Understanding Your Student's CogAT Data

Tuesday, January 9, 2018 (make-up date in case of inclement weather is January 10, 2018)

6:30pm - 8:00pm

1829 Denver West Drive, Bldg #27

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

More information about this school year's Parent Seminars can be found [here](#). [En Espanol](#)

Next Parent Seminars (typically held in the 5th Floor Board Room at 1829 Denver West Drive, Bldg #27, from 6:30pm to 8:00pm.)

January 29, 2018 Various GT Topics based on parent feedback [Flyer](#) [En Espanol](#)

February 26, 2018 [Creating 21st Century Innovators Presented by Ian Byrd](#) [Flyer](#) [En Espanol](#)

April 24, 2018 GT Share Fair - more information to come.

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## **Gifted Support Group - Littleton January 26th**

Gifted Support Group - Littleton

Friday, January 26, 2018

Lunch bunch 11:30am - 1:00pm (feel free to bring your own lunch or buy something 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)

The 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.

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## **If You Need Help Navigating the GT World, or Jeffco's GT Process**

Should you have questions or concerns you need help with, please join our [Facebook Group](#) (send a Friend Request) or [email](#) us. JAGC has a wealth of information for any stage of the path you are on.

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## **Jeffco Summer SPARKS Camp - Date: June 18 - 29, 2018**

Jeffco Summer SPARKS GT Camp

Dates: June 18-29, 2018

Location: Golden High School

Registration Opens on February 1, 2018 and closes March 30, 2018 at 4 pm.

Usually the schedule is available about a week before registration opens. Registration sign-up can be accessed [here](#) beginning February 1, 2018. (The SPARKS page is currently under construction.)

Please direct SPARKS questions [here](#) .

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## **School Interest Nights (Showcases)**

School Interest Nights are when schools showcase their instructional programs and explain enrollment procedures. These Interest Nights are typically held late October through February, but can be anytime. For a list of schools offering showcases, check [here](#).

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## **Steven's GT Center Info Night - January 10th**

From Stevens Elementary: Join us for the Stevens Elementary School Gifted & Talented Interest Night and School Tour Events

Know a prospective Stevens GT family? Invite them to our GT Interest events. Join Principal McManus and members of the staff for coffee and conversation at the Bardo Coffee House (6150 W 38th Ave, Wheat Ridge, CO 80033) in Wheat Ridge on Wednesday January 10th at 5:30pm. GT specific tours of Stevens are available at the school on two Wednesdays, January 10th and 17th. Tours are offered at 8am and 2pm each day and are expected to last 30 minutes.

[Letter](#) from Stevens Elementary School Principal TJ McManus

[What is a Gifted Resource Teacher \(RT\)?](#) An interview with Jennifer Mulhern, Stevens Elementary's RT

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## Red Rocks Community College Senior Preview Day January 4th

From Red Rocks Community College: Join us for [Senior Preview Day!](#) Red Rocks Community College is inviting area high school seniors to visit campus and experience life as a Red Rocks student. Faculty will be presenting mini lectures to demonstrate the hands-on, small group experiences students can expect at Red Rocks Community College. In addition, participants will learn about financial aid opportunities specific to Red Rocks Community College and the pathways to career and academic success. A lunch and panel discussion with current students is also provided.

Red Rocks Community College Senior Preview Day  
Thursday, January 4, 2018  
10:00am-2:00pm  
Check-in begins at 9:30  
Red Rocks Community College Lakewood Campus  
13300 W. 6th Ave. Lakewood, CO 80228  
(303)914-6600

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## Jeffco Gifted and Talented - Center School Spring Testing - **Application Closes January 16th** - Last Chance to Test This School Year

Jeffco Gifted Center applications for spring testing for GT Center placement at a GT Center school or an Advanced Learning Plan (ALP) at the neighborhood/home school will be open October 16, 2017 through January 16, 2018. Jeffco offers free testing for applicants who are 5 years of age (or older) by October 1, 2017 and in kindergarten. These children are eligible to apply for the start of the 2018-19 school year. Find the online application and additional information [here](#). Testing will be Saturday, February 3, 2018, and takes approximately 2 hours. See the fall and spring 2017-2018 application process/timeline [here](#).

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## Jeffco Early Access Testing for Entrance to Kindergarten or First Grade for the 2018-2019 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, 2018 and for early entrance to first grade, a child must be 5 years old by October 1, 2018.

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

1. Fill out the online [application](#), which will open in January 2018 through sometime in March 2018.
2. Once the application is submitted, you will receive, in the mail, 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 in March 2018.
4. Parents will be contacted to schedule Cognitive Testing (DAS-II - Differential Ability Scales). Testing is typically scheduled in late March or early April and takes approximately 2 hours.
5. If the child scores in the 98th 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 will be scheduled in early April 2018 and takes approximately 2 hours.
6. Notification of acceptance and non-acceptance is typically sent to parents late in April.

Part of the Early Access process is submitting a portfolio of evidence. This may include examples of art work, writing, 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.

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### **Jeffco News - Jeffco Gifted & Talented Department Web Page**

The Jeffco Gifted & Talented Department keeps this [Web Page](#) updated with what's happening in the Jeffco GT world.

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### **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 childrens' 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 ALP (Advanced Learning Plan) in Jeffco, you should have received a letter from the district allowing your child to test. 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.](#)

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## **Colorado News - Federal changes for Gifted and Talented**

Many of you are familiar with NCLB (No Child Left Behind), a Bush era mandate that required schools to monitor and be accountable to their lowest performing students. While it was a much needed mandate and had some good results, an unfortunate outcome was that our gifted children were left behind. NCLB is now being replaced by ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act), launched during the Obama administration. ESSA allows for states to have more control over their “accountability systems” than allowed by NCLB. ESSA also encourages states and school districts to be accountable to ALL students, expanding the categories of students to include not only our Free and Reduced Lunch population, minorities, migrants, and English Language Learners, but also our Gifted and Talented students. This is a first move to monitor and begin accountability toward our GT students, assuring that all students grow. Is there more to do for GT and ESSA? Absolutely. But, Colorado was one of only a few states given an A+ for their ESSA plan. CDE listened to GT parents and the GT community to ensure GT was incorporated into Colorado's ESSA plan. Thanks to CDE and their work for our kids!

For further reading: [High Achievers Will Benefit From Most State ESSA Accountability Plans](#) by Brandon L. Wright for the Thomas B. Fordham Institute.

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## **Enrichment Corner - Jeffco Writing Challenge**

The Jeffco Writing Challenge is open to all Jefferson County School students in K-12. Poetry, short stories, non-fiction or dramas (up to 500 words max) are all welcome. Deadline for submissions is February 23, 2018. [Flyer](#)  
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## **Davidson Institute for Talent Development 2018 Davidson Fellows \$50,000, \$25,000 and \$10,000 Scholarships**

The Davidson Institute for Talent Development offers high-achieving young people across the country the opportunity to be named a 2018 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 14, 2018.

Find more information and application [here.](#)

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## **Colorado Student Leaders Institute (COSLI) Summer Program**

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, 2018. Find information [here](#). Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Director of COSLI, [Celeste Archer](#) 720-891-0060.

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## **Mackintosh Academy Littleton - Open House January 11, 2018**

Mackintosh Academy Littleton - Open House

Looking for that "right fit" school for your PreK through 8th grade child? Wondering what the International Baccalaureate and inquiry-based learning are all about? Meet our director of admissions, tour our award-winning campus and see why Mackintosh Academy has been serving Colorado's brightest minds for over 40 years. All are welcome! Please [RSVP](#) .

Thursday, January 11, 2018  
9:00am - 10:30am  
Mackintosh Academy  
7018 S. Prince St., Littleton

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## **Mackintosh Academy Littleton - Taste of the Apple January 25th**

Taste of the Apple: Experience Mack & Annual Meeting: Prospective and current families are invited to enjoy the Mackintosh experience and participate in teacher-guided inquiry. Find out why Mackintosh truly offers the whole apple, preparing children for a world yet to be imagined. Visit our award-winning school and meet parent, teacher and student ambassadors to learn more about our IB programming for gifted and creative learners. Our Head of School and Board will speak on the "state of the school." [RSVP](#) required to Beth Steklac.

Mackintosh Academy Taste of the Apple  
Thursday, January 25, 2018  
5:30pm - 8:00pm  
Mackintosh Academy  
7018 S. Prince St., Littleton

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## **CAGT Legislative Day - Thursday, February 22, 2018**

Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented (CAGT) will be hosting their annual [Legislative Day](#) on Thursday, February 22, 2018. This event allows students (grades 8 – 12) a unique opportunity to shadow a state legislator for the day. The application process opens the first week of January. There is also an adult component to the day, where gifted advocates have an opportunity to learn about current legislative initiatives that affect our gifted children. Registration will be available around January 1, 2018.

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## **Colorado Department of Education - Gifted Education Tuesdays (G.E.T.)**

Gifted Education Tuesdays (G.E.T.) are interactive webinars on selected Tuesdays from 3:30pm-5:00pm MST. This school year's webinars are:

February 6, 2018: RtI (Response to Intervention) and Building a BOE (Body of Evidence) for Pre-identification

April 3, 2018: RtI (Response to Intervention) and how it relates to Gifted Programming

Find more information and registration [here](#).

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## **SENGinars**

SENG (Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted) webinars (SENGinars) provide convenient access to many of the top experts in the gifted field discussing issues related to the social and emotional needs of the gifted. The webinars are designed expressly for parents, educators, and mental health professionals who work with gifted children. You will have an opportunity to ask questions at the end of each live webinar. Webinars are attended online from your own home and are \$40. Upcoming [SENGinars](#):

Isolated Identities: Perspectives of Gifted LGBTQ+ Teens & Young Adults

Presented by Melody Yourd

Thursday, January 11, 2018

5:30pm MST - 7:00pm MST

Find more information [here](#).

Adolescents and Young Adults: How to Help Them Reach Their Full Potential Rather Than Dropping Out

Presented by Femke Hovinga and Tijn Koenderink

Thursday, February 22, 2018

5:30pm MST - 7:00pm MST

Find more information [here](#).



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## **8th Annual Gifted Education Conference (Formerly IDGE) - Talented Voices: Diversity and Equity in Gifted Education February 7-8, 2018**

8th Annual [Gifted Education Conference](#) (Formerly IDGE) - Talented Voices: Diversity and Equity in Gifted Education

Policy Symposium: February 7, 2018 4:30pm - 7:00pm

Conference: February 8, 2018 8:00am - 5:30pm

University of Denver - Morgridge College of Education

Katharine A. Ruffatto Hall

1999 E. Evans Ave.

Denver, CO 80210

[Tickets](#)

"Designed for teacher leaders, building and district leaders, parents, mental health professionals, and education service providers, the conference is intended to provide specific topical information about selected areas in gifted education. This year, we are planning another dynamic and informative Symposium and Conference that focuses on identification of and service to all gifted learners. Join us to learn strategies for recognizing talent, and tools for the development of programming and service models. Important policy issues and trends facing gifted education today will be highlighted and discussed during the Symposium. The Gifted Education Conference will join leading educators and researchers with participants to explore gifted education through an equity lens with a recognition of all gifted learners. Our 2018 speakers include Dina Brulles, PhD, Stephen Chou, PhD, and Judy Kiyama, PhD and the 2017 Palmarium Award winner James Webb, PhD!"

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## **Beyond Giftedness Conference and Parent Mini-Conference Friday, February 23, 2018 Arvada, CO**

Our Gifted will host a conference for educators and parents at the Arvada Center for the Arts (6901 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada) on Friday, February 23, 2018 from 8am-4pm (7:30am registration). The Parent Mini-conference will be a special parent focused event from 9am-1pm (8:30am registration) which includes lunch. Featured keynote "Different Brains: The Continuum of Exceptionality" presented by Marlo Payne Thurman, Ph.D. She has a wealth of knowledge and has shared her expertise with the gifted community locally and nationally. Conference features include certificates for 7.5 hours of Professional Development and breakout sessions for teachers, counselors, administrators, and parents. Find registration, updates, and more information [here](#).

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## Helpful Links

[Boulder Country Day School Events](#) (there are often Gifted topics)  
[Jeffco Public Library](#) Kid Events  
[Douglas County Parent University](#) Courses (there are often Gifted topics)  
Davidson Institute [Newsletters](#)  
[SENG Newsletters](#)  
Previously broadcast SENGINars can be purchased [here](#).

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## JAGC GT Ambassadors

JAGC works in positive partnership with the Jeffco School District's Gifted & Talented Department to provide leadership by promoting information about the educational and social-emotional needs of gifted and talented (GT) students. JAGC's Ambassador Program extends this leadership from the district level into individual school buildings. JAGC Ambassadors are volunteers who receive training in how to serve GT students, parents, and staff at the articulation area and school building levels. If you are interested in volunteering as a family or community member to help JAGC locally support the local GT community, please think about advocating for Jeffco's GT students in this capacity. JAGC would like to have a GT Ambassador at ALL schools, so please let us know if you can help.

What's involved in being a GT Ambassador? Find out [here](#). Click [here](#) for additional information about this important role or [contact](#) the ambassador coordinator if you have any questions and/or to volunteer.

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## Call for Volunteers

Are You a JAGC Member?

The Jefferson County Association for Gifted Children (JAGC) is a non-profit 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 Member

Membership in JAGC and CAGT runs concurrent to the school year. Both are valid from September until August of the following year. Download a [JAGC Membership Form](#).

## Donate

Your contributions make a difference. 100% of your tax-deductible donation to JAGC will directly support distribution of information and GT advocacy in Jefferson County. Click here to download a [JAGC Donation Form](#).

Amazon Smile - Through Amazon Smile part 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.

## Volunteer

Your time and talents help JAGC run as a volunteer organization. We particularly would like to have at least one [JAGC GT Ambassador](#) at each school, to share information at the local level. Help in other areas is also welcome; [email](#) to volunteer your particular area of interest/skill.

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 FB message to request group membership or [email](#) for more information. A big thank you to Susan Carter-Ruskell for sharing great gifted content and managing JAGC's Facebook presence!

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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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