



JEFFERSON COUNTY ASSOCIATION
FOR GIFTED CHILDREN

December 2019

NEWSLETTER



You're Invited Dec. 5!
JAGC Board Meeting & Community Forum
at Summit Ridge Middle School
in Littleton

*Join us for a
discussion about
Jeffco gifted
programs!*

**JAGC Board Meeting 5-6 PM
Community Forum 6-7 PM**

Summit Ridge Middle School
11809 Coal Mine Ave., Littleton, CO 80127

[JAGC NEWS](#)

[JEFFCO GT DEPT UPDATES](#)

[FOR PARENTS](#)

[FOR STUDENTS](#)

[JAGC CALENDAR](#)

[CONNECT WITH JAGC](#)

JAGC NEWS

[Upcoming JAGC Board Meetings and Community Forums](#)

You're Invited! Please join JAGC for our upcoming board meetings (5-6 pm) and community forums (6-7 pm) at locations around Jeffco:

- Thurs, Dec. 5, Summit Ridge Middle School, 11809 Coal Mine Ave., Littleton, CO 80127
- Thurs, Jan. 16, Wheat Ridge High School, 9505 W. 32nd Ave., Wheat Ridge, CO 80033

[Give Us A Gift This Holiday Season - Support JAGC With Amazon Smile](#)

When you select JAGC as your charity of choice and shop on Amazon through Amazon Smile, a portion of your purchase price will be donated to JAGC. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> and select "Jefferson County Association for Gifted Children" before making your next purchase. Help support family resources for gifted education! Thank you!

[Four Types of Underachievement in Gifted Children](#) - From *Gifted Challenges* Blog

[What We're Getting Wrong About Gifted Education](#) - Joseph S. Renzulli, *Education Week*
(You can register for three free articles per month)

[Eight Tips for School Tours](#) - Melanie Asmar, *Chalkbeat*

JEFFCO GT DEPT UPDATES

[Understanding Your Student's CogAT Data - Dec. 11 and 17](#)

If your child took the CogAT (this includes all district second graders), you should receive CogAT results in the mail around the first week of December. If you applied for Gifted & Talented Center placement, the decision emails will be sent to parents in early January. If your child was accepted into a Gifted & Talented Center, open houses and tours will be scheduled starting mid-January.

Wednesday, Dec. 11 and Tuesday, Dec. 17

6:15-8 pm

Jeffco Education Center, 1829 Denver West Drive, Bldg #27, Golden, CO 80401

[Planning for Middle School? Check out Jeffco Virtual Academy's Online Gifted & Talented Classes](#)

In collaboration with Jeffco Gifted & Talented, Jeffco Virtual Academy offers full-year core courses for 7th and 8th grade that are developed and taught by certified GT teachers. Please see this [page](#) for more information. Course information is [here](#). Enrollment for 2020-2021 opens in December.

[Jeffco Early Access Testing for Entrance to Kindergarten or First Grade for the 2020-2021 School Year](#)

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

Early Access age requirements:

- The student must reach the age of four by October 1 for kindergarten.
- The student must reach the age of five by October 1 for grade one.

The 2020-2021 application will open on January 2, 2020. Visit the [Jeffco GT website](#) for more information on Early Access.

FOR PARENTS

For Parents New to GT

Parents are often looking for useful resources in gifted education, especially those new to the Jeffco GT program. JAGC offers resources on our [website](#). Look for information for [elementary students](#) under the Resources tab as well as helpful [websites, books, and resources](#).

[Hoagies Gifted website](#) offers information for parents, educators and students. The Davidson Institute's [guidebooks](#) for parents and educators on advocacy, early entrance to college, homeschooling, mentorships, and twice exceptional students can be downloaded for free:

- [Advocating for Exceptionally Gifted Young People](#)
- [Homeschooling](#)
- [Twice-exceptionality](#)

If you have questions about Jeffco GT Center placement or schooling, see the [Jeffco GT Dept. website](#). You can always contact JAGC for questions about navigating the GT world, connecting with other parents and parent resources at info@jeffcogifted.org.

[CDE PEP Conferences - Jan. 23-25 & April 2-4](#)

PEP (Parents Encouraging Parents) Conferences are free events designed to promote family and school partnerships that are essential in supporting students with disabilities and their families in schools and the community. To learn more about PEP Conferences and to register, [click here](#). For more information, contact Joyce Thiessen-Barrett, 303-866-6757.

2020 PEP dates:

January 23-25 - Colorado Springs, CO

April 2-4 - Grand Junction, CO

[Annual Gifted Education Conference - Jan. 30-31](#)

Registration is now open for the Gifted Education Conference sponsored by the University of Denver. Designed for teacher leaders, building and district leaders, researchers, parents, mental health professionals, and education service providers, the conference is intended to provide specific topical information about selected areas in gifted education.

Jan. 30 & 31, 8 am-5 pm
Wellshire Event Center
3333 South Colorado Boulevard
Denver, CO 80222

[2e Support Group Meets Saturdays](#)

A support group for parents of twice-exceptional (2e) youth meets on alternating Saturdays, facilitated by Bev S. Weiler, LPCC, NCC. These free sessions will incorporate guest speakers as needed, and will cover topics such as executive functioning, IEP/ALP/504 process, social-emotional strategies, and whatever other topics the group decides on.

It is hoped that these meetings will also provide a healthy and safe place for parents to connect with others who are living with similar challenges. Meet at the Gifted Development Center, 8120 Sheridan Boulevard C-111, Westminster, CO 80003. For more information, contact [Bev](#) or 720-635-1915.

[TECA Fall Online Parent Seminars](#)

The Twice Exceptional Children's Advocacy (TECA) is hosting online parent seminars this fall. This group is open to parents and guardians of all twice exceptional children and teens. See the [schedule online](#) for topics and dates.

[Parent Engagement Network's Parent Education Series](#)

Check out the Parent Engagement Network's [events page](#) for information on their Parent Education Series. Topics include Executive Functioning, Developing Resiliency, Mindset Skills for Success, Meaningful Conversations and more.

[Center for Bright Kids Western Academic Talent Search \(WATS\) 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 seven states, provides summer and other youth programs. Testing runs from October-February. 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 letter to you electronically. 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.

Beyond Giftedness Conference

Now in its 27th year, the conference is held on the last Friday in February in Arvada, Colorado. With a focus on practical tools that can be used with the gifted children in your life, it features keynote presentations and breakouts given by leaders in the field of gifted education, exhibitors, and the opportunity to connect with others in the field of gifted education. A parent half-day runs simultaneously. Register by December 31st and save!

Friday, February 28, 2020, 8:00am - 4:15pm
Arvada Center for the Arts
6901 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada, CO 80003

FOR STUDENTS

Winter Break Camps at School of Mines - Jan. 2-3

The Academies for Young Minds program for 2nd through 5th grade students offers camps focused on the games and toys that helped build skills for Native American and early pioneer youngsters:

- Native American Games and Toys - Jan. 2-3, morning
- Pioneer Games and Toys - January 2-3, afternoon
- Henry Ford Vehicle Challenge for young engineers - Jan. 2-3, all day

The Academies for Young Minds encourage children to be innovative and use creative problem-solving by engaging them in fun, hands-on activities. Visit the [website](#) for camp information and registration.

JeffCon IT Conference - Jan. 31

This conference at the Jeffco Ed Center is designed to inform, engage, and provide growth opportunities for any Jeffco High School student interested in pursuing a career in the field of information Technology (IT). Students must apply through their home high school.

Jeffco Writing Challenge - Due Feb. 21

Jeffco students, start planning now for the 2020 Jeffco Writing Challenge! [Click here](#) for the prompt. First place winners in each grade win \$100; 2nd & 3rd place win Tattered Cover Gift Cards. Submissions are due Feb 21.

STEM Programs From the National Inventors Hall of Fame

Interested in enrolling in a STEM program or bringing STEM enrichment to your school? The National Inventors Hall of Fame offers programs in the Denver area for preschool through 9th grade and professional development for educators. See [offerings](#) and how to organize a club on the [Invent.org](#) website.

[STEMblazers - Inspiring Girls in STEM](#)

Stemblazers inspires girls to visualize themselves in science, technology, engineering, and math careers and empowers them to pursue STEM professions. We envision a world where women feel confident to pursue STEM careers and are equally represented in the STEM workforce. There are several clubs at schools in the Denver area. Check the [website](#) for locations or to start a club at your school. STEMblazers welcomes speakers, chapter leaders, mentors, job shadow and field trip hosts, volunteers and corporate sponsors.

[Students, Do You Need Teacher Letters of Recommendation?](#)

Check out this [article](#) for helpful information on asking for and completing letters of recommendation.

[Apply to the Davidson Academy Online Campus - Applications due March 31](#)

The 2020-2021 application for the Davidson Academy online campus is now available. Open to students who live anywhere in the United States and Canada, this accredited online option builds off the one-of-a-kind, exceptional framework put in place by the Davidson Academy's Reno campus. The result is a robust online community where students thrive. Learn about the benefits of online learning for gifted students and how the Davidson Academy Online is working to meet their needs.

Visit the [Qualification Criteria](#) and [How to Apply](#) pages to read about the application process. The application deadline is March 31. Virtual open houses will be held on several dates. Register for an open house [here](#).

- Tuesday, Dec. 10, 4 pm PT
- Wednesday, Jan. 22, 5 pm PT
- Thursday, Feb. 6, 4 pm PT
- Monday, March 9, 5 pm PT

[Scholarships](#)

[Davidson Institute Fellows Scholarships - Applications Due Feb. 12](#)

The Davidson Institute for Talent Development offers high-achieving young people across the country the opportunity to be named a 2020 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 Feb. 12. [Find more information and apply here.](#)

[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](#).

Student Opportunities

[Colorado Student Leaders Institute - Applications Due Jan. 31](#)

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 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 first generation college students.

[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 Online Courses). [MOOCs](#) provide students (and parents!) 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, psychology, or American poetry, these classes are just a click away - and they are FREE!

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

[Area College & Job Fairs](#)

[College Application Deadlines](#)

EVENTS CALENDAR

Check out the [JAGC Calendar](#) for detailed information on the following events:

- Denver Writes Creative Writing Club - [Monday, December 2](#)
- CSBR Space Business Roundup - [Wednesday, December 4](#)
- Denver Writes Teen Writing Club - [Wednesday, December 4](#)
- SENG Parent Book Study Central Group - [Wednesday December 4](#)
- CU Preschool Mornings at the Museum - [Thursday, December 5](#)
- JAGC Board Meeting, Public Welcome** - [Thursday, December 5](#)
- SENG Parent Book Study North Group - [Thursday, December 5](#)

Denver Astronomy Society Open House - [Saturday, December 7](#)
CU Wizards: A Visit from Madame Curie - [Saturday, December 7](#)
Tattered Cover Family Fun Night - [Saturday, December 7](#)
Denver Astronomy Society Open House - [Sunday, December 8](#)
Denver Writes Creative Writing Club - [Monday, December 9](#)
[Enroll Jeffco Round 1 Opens](#) - [Tuesday, December 10-Jan. 15](#)
TEDx Cherry Creek Women - [Tuesday, December 10](#)
SENG Parent Book Study South Group - [Tuesday, December 10](#)
Colorado Academy Lecture: Building Resiliency Within Our Teens - [Wed, Dec 11](#)
Denver Writes Teen Writing Club - [Wednesday, December 11](#)
CogAT Parent Meeting - [Wednesday, December 11](#)
CU Preschool Mornings at the Museum - [Thursday, December 12](#)
Denver Writes Workshop: Written Gifts - [Saturday, December 14](#)
Support Group for Parents of 2e Children - [Saturday, December 14](#)
Denver Writes Creative Writing Club - [Monday, December 16](#)
CogAT Parent Meeting - [Tuesday, December 17](#)
Denver Writes Teen Writing Club - [Wednesday, December 18](#)
CU Preschool Mornings at the Museum - [Thursday, December 19](#)

Denver Writes Creative Writing Club - [Monday, January 6](#)
Parenting the Highly Sensitive Child - [Wednesday, January 8](#)
CU Preschool Mornings at the Museum - [Thursday, January 9](#)
PEN Nurturing Healthy Relationships - [Thursday, January 9](#)
Support Group for Parents of 2e Children - [Saturday, January 11](#)

JOIN JAGC!

[Become a JAGC Member](#)

Are you a member of JAGC? 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. [Join](#) today and support gifted education in Jeffco!

[Check Out JAGC on Facebook](#)

Did you know that [JAGC](#) is on Facebook? You can follow us on Facebook and stay up-to-date with Gifted and Jeffco Schools related information in your Facebook feed.

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 in this newsletter.