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[Helpful Links](#)

Understood.org - A very helpful website for learning and attention issues

Byrdseed - A website to help you better understand giftedness

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

Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG) Newsletters

Previously broadcast SENGINars can be purchased here.

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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.

Jeffco GT Parent Seminar - Creating 21st Century Innovators Presented by Ian Byrd - February 26, 2018

Rapidly developing technologies have empowered the creative, quirky, and obsessed (sound like anyone you know?) to use those traits to create their own careers. Gifted and talented students have the potential to make their own paths while earning a living doing something they love. We'll explore some case studies and look at new tools for communicating, publishing, and even getting paid.

Ian Byrd, one of the leading new voices in the field of gifted education and creativity, will be speaking. Ian is the author of the website byrdseed.com, which has a wealth of resources, articles and video clips on a variety of GT-related topics, including resources specifically for parents.

Creating 21st Century Innovators Presented by Ian Byrd

Monday, February 26, 2018
6:30pm - 8:00pm
Jeffco Education Center - 5th Floor Board Room
1829 Denver West Drive, Bldg #27
[Flyer Español](#)

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

Jeffco Annual Gifted and Talented Share Fair April 24, 2018

When students explore their passions, learning isn't a chore. This year, JEFFCO GT students have worked beyond fact acquisition to apply learning to authentic tasks. Projects presented are the culmination of identifying a passion, gathering information and analyzing research to determine what has been discovered and relating it to the real world. Please come and share your passion by participating in Jefferson County's Annual Gifted and Talented Share Fair. The deadline to submit a proposal is Friday, March 23rd, 2018.

Tuesday, April 24, 2018
6:30pm - 7:30pm
Jeffco Education Center - 5th Floor Board Room
1829 Denver West Drive, Bldg #27
Find more information and submission form [here](#).

Gifted Support Group - Littleton February 23rd

Gifted Support Group - Littleton

Friday, February 23, 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)

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.

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.

JAGC Election - Apply for an Open Position

Find information [here](#) about open positions on the JAGC Board of Directors and the election process. Positions and forms will be posted February 11, 2018.

Accomplish Your Dream of Being a Newsletter Editor!

Need to beef up your resume? Have an interest in communications? JAGC needs a Newsletter Editor! Each month JAGC publishes its newsletter that provides a wealth of information to our GT community. It takes approximate 8-10 hours a month and is easy to manage, especially through our new website. Please consider providing a bit of your time and talent to help us with publishing our newsletter. For questions please feel free to contact [Susan Miller](#). We look forward to hearing from you.

Help Your School Community Connect With JAGC - 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. Or you can register [here](#).

Middle School Math...No Credit Toward High School Requirements

The challenge for many of our advanced learners is their ability to access material that challenges them, that keeps them engaged. A number of middle schools do provide our students access to higher levels of math including Algebra I, Geometry, and in some cases Algebra II (although that is normally an on-line course). So we think, great, our student is challenged, they are happy, we're happy as parents. But not so fast, because unless your child is taking a course that aligns with the high school math curriculum, your child may be stuck having to take four more years of math once they hit high school. Let's look at an example. Take a young dancer who excelled in math, took Geometry in "eighth grade" and moved on to high school, only to find that she needed to take multi-variable calculus and stats, because she needed four years of high school math. Now, why a dancer would need multi-variable calculus, when she wanted to take extra art classes, was confusing to her, as well as her parents. Suffice it to say, check with your high school principal on how best to meet state and district math requirements. As we move towards competency we need to recognize that competency needs to be honored for our accelerated learners too. The math dilemma has been a challenge for our advanced learners for a long time. If they can access the high school level math in middle school, that's great. Just make sure your middle school principal and your high school principal are working to ensure students who do move quickly through the math curriculum aren't forced to take even higher levels of math if that's not really necessary for your child's college or career pathway.

If you want to discuss further, please email info@jeffcogifted.org.

In Case You Missed It - Identification in Jeffco After CogAT 7

Jeffco's Parent Seminar in early January explained how the identification process works after students have taken the CogAT 7. See the presentation [here](#).

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 is open now through April 1, 2018
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 23, 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 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 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.

Jeffco News - Gifted Parent Academy

Gifted Parent Academy - "We are now offering four different online courses to help parents gain a deeper understanding of their gifted children and load up their tool boxes with effective strategies for greater success and well-being. Courses are open enrollment - start anytime and work at your own pace - and cost only \$35 per family. See the [website](#) for course descriptions, format information, and registration.

Davidson Young Scholars Program - Free Support, Information, and Resources for Profoundly Gifted Students

The national Davidson Young Scholars program provides FREE support, information, and resources to families of profoundly gifted students. Through an online community and annual event, Young Scholars have the opportunity to meet others with similar interests and abilities, and utilize their talents to maximize their educational potential and make a difference in the lives of others. Parents collaborate with a team of knowledgeable Family Consultants who provide individualized services based on each family's unique needs, including educational advocacy and planning, social and emotional development, and enrichment opportunities. Once enrolled, Davidson Young Scholars can access exclusive opportunities such as online courses and a summer camp for 8 to 12 year olds. The Davidson Young Scholars application deadline is the first of each month. Visit their [website](#) to learn more.

Also, find [guidebooks](#), free to download, about Advocacy, Early College, Gap Year, Giving Back, Homeschooling, and Mentorships.

Enrichment Corner - Wings Over the Rockies Aviation Ground School

[Aviation Ground School](#) - Do you know a student in grades 8 – 12 that has a passion for flight? Sign them up for Aviation Ground School, a five-part workshop created to offer your high schooler the basics of pilot training and to inspire a love of flight. The cost to attend ground school is \$25. This fee provides the attendee with an annual "student membership" to Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum. Students of Wings Aerospace Academy and museum members are FREE.

The first three courses will take place at Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum in the Harrison Ford Welcome Theater. The last two dates will be held at Centennial Airport in Englewood, CO.

Classes:

February 17 10am - 12pm
February 24 10am - 12pm
March 3 10am - 12pm
March 10 10am - 12pm
March 17 8am - 12pm

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Wings Aerospace Academy Charter - Parent Information Nights

"[Wings Aerospace Academy](#) (WAA is part of Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum) is a tuition-free charter program for 6th-11th grade students that provides hands-on aerospace experiences. Each year, the program will be extended one grade until the year 2020. At which time the program will include students in grades 6-12.

Wings Aerospace Academy offers a "blended learning" format, bringing together the best of two worlds - education technology and on-line learning. Core courses are provided by a certified, multi-district charter school, the Elevate Academy; and hands-on, aerospace-based STEM curricula is provided by Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum in aerospace settings.

[Gifted and Talented Program](#)

At Wings Aerospace Academy, we strive to apply effective gifted and talented instruction. We try to differentiate these gifted and talented students through day in and day out measurements of meeting goals and levels of advancement. We want to make sure a student is being challenged and are willing to make changes in process, curriculum and environment so that they reach their highest potential."

[Parent Information Nights](#)

February 20, 2018

March 20, 2018

April 17, 2018

May 15, 2018

6:00-8:00pm

Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum

7711 East Academy Boulevard

Denver, CO 80230 United States

Summer Programs 2018 - Updated List Available Soon

Available soon, an updated list of [Summer Programs](#).

Mackintosh Academy Presents Girls in Science and Design Feb. 24th

[Girls in Science and Design](#) - For girls ages 9 -13 & their parents, this FREE event will offer fun hands-on workshops and an interactive discussion led by women scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs. The goal? To inspire and empower girls to maintain and grow their interest in science, design, innovation and exploration.

Denver Museum of Nature & Science Presents Girls and Science 2018 - March 3rd

The Denver Museum of Nature & Science and CBS4 are excited to host the fourth annual [Girls & Science](#) event. Come explore a variety of Science Clubhouses, where girls (and boys!) and their families will meet women Career Mentors in STEAM and experience the many diverse opportunities a future career in science, technology, engineering, art, and math can bring. This day is all about igniting a passion for science - so try it on, test it out, and play! All ages welcome, with activities targeted to ages 8-13.

Saturday, March 3, 2018
9am - 5pm
Denver Museum of Nature & Science
2001 Colorado Blvd.

Rocky Mountain STEAM Fest 2018 March 3rd & 4th, 2018

"We are celebrating all things creative, imaginative and exploratory at a festival extraordinaire... It's Science, Technology, Entrepreneurship (invention!), Arts and Making. STEAM Fest is an awe-filled, jaw-dropping chance to tinker, hack, build, crumble, fly, drive, drink, DO, dabble - PLAY!"

Saturday, March 3rd and Sunday, March 4th, 2018
10:00am-5:00pm both days
Boulder County Fairgrounds
9595 Nelson Road, Longmont
More information [here](#).

BVGT Presents Supporting Gifted Children in Early Childhood Settings with Catherine Zakoian March 6, 2018

Early Childhood Educators join Boulder Valley Gifted and Talented (BVGT) in collaboration with the Early Childhood Council of Boulder County to better understand what giftedness looks like in very young children.

Learn how to best recognize and prepare to support these youngsters and their families, leading to wonderfully deep teaching relationships and enriched and happy classroom environments. Participants will leave with a basic understanding of giftedness and concrete tools to support gifted children in their classrooms.

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

6:00pm - 8:30pm

Aspinwall @ Josephine Commons, Community Building

771 Excelsior Place Lafayette, CO 80026

Cost: Free

Training credit hours: 2.5 Clock Hours

Registration and information [here](#). Registration required by February 19.

Space is limited, so register early.

Colorado Teen Literature Conference - Saturday, April 14, 2018 Denver, CO

Keynote authors Simone Elkeles and Raúl the Third.

Saturday, April 14, 2018

7:30am - 4:00pm

Tivoli Center on Auraria Campus, Denver

Registration will open February 5th. Find more information [here](#).

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 remaining webinar is:

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

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

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](#):

Change, Loss, and Giftedness: A Counselor Examines the Intersection
Presented by Jean Peterson, Ph.D.
Thursday, February 15, 2018
7.30pm EDT – 9.00pm EDT
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](#).

Is That REALLY An Elephant in the Room?
Presented by Dr. Joy Lawson Davis
Thursday, March 22, 2018
7.30pm EDT – 9.00pm EDT
Find more information [here](#).

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](#).

Gifted Development Center Presents Gifted Women Symposium June 2, 2018

Join Paula Prober and Linda Silverman on an unforgettable journey of self-discovery, reflection and rejuvenation.

Gifted Women Symposium
Saturday, June 2, 2018
8:30am - 4:30pm
Legacy Ridge West Clubhouse
Westminster
[Information and registration](#)

Helpful Links

[Understood.org](#) - A very helpful website for learning and attention issues
[Byrdseed](#) - A website to help better understand giftedness
[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](#).

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? Click [here](#) for additional information about this important role or [contact](#) the ambassador coordinator if you have any questions and/or to volunteer.

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. Become a member [here](#). Be sure to select Jeffco as your affiliate.

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!

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.