

JAGC December 2025 Newsletter

Jeffco GT Department Events

Jeffco GT Department is offering several upcoming events:

[How to Interpret the CogAT](#)

[GT Office Hours for Parents](#)

[GT Parent Support/Q & A Group](#)

[Book Clubs](#)

See Upcoming Events below for more information on each.

Jeffco School District Dyslexia Screening

Jeffco Schools will be implementing a universal dyslexia screener for students in kindergarten through 3rd grade in **December of 2025**.

Dyslexia screening is a short and simple way to see if a child shows some early signs that they might have trouble with reading now or in the future. It helps identify kids who could benefit from some extra attention and support. It's super important to know that screening is not the same as getting a diagnosis of dyslexia. Think of it like a temperature check – a high temperature might suggest something's going on, but you need more tests to know exactly what it is. Screening tells us the level of risk for reading problems in general and the potential risk of having or developing dyslexia.

Find more information on [Jeffco's Dyslexia webpage](#).

Resources to Advocate for Your Gifted Jeffco Student

JAGC has a webpage dedicated to helping [advocate for your gifted student](#).

Ways to Engage

[JAGC Parent Support Meetings](#)

[Parent/Guardian Group for Those with Gifted Children on the Autism Spectrum in Jeffco Schools](#)

Upcoming Events

Note: These events are 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.

CU Wizards: There's Something in the Air: The Chemistry of the Atmosphere!

CU Wizards December Show

Presented by: Professors Kelvin Bates and Steven Brown

Saturday, December 6, 2025

9:30am - 10:30am

Cristol Chemistry 140

University of Colorado, Boulder

Free

For over 4 decades, CU Wizards family shows allow K-12 students to visit campus on a Saturday morning, participate in STEAM programs, meet and talk to professors, scientists, & fellow students of all ages who are curious about the natural world!

CU Wizards shows...always FREE, always fun...check out the [CU Wizards website](#).

Jeffco GT Dept: How to Interpret the CogAT

Watch the on-demand videos: Understanding the CogAT Assessment for Families and Students

Join us for the **CogAT Information Night**

Thursday, December 11th

5:00pm – 6:00pm

Please [fill out this short form](#) to receive a link to the virtual office hour.

[Understanding the CogAT Data](#)

[Understanding the GT ID / Advanced Learning Plan \(ALP\) Process](#)

Part 1: Why Identify Gifted Students? - <https://youtu.be/ZSGpccJ4WrY>

Part 2: What is a Body of Evidence? - <https://youtu.be/hT65ffFOyck>

Part 3: Next Steps and Programming Options - https://youtu.be/0Xa8Tzo_SYs
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7H987qWPXZo>

Jeffco GT Dept: GT Office Hours for Parents

Do you have questions about GT? We are here to help! Announcing GT department office hours, where you can speak with GT Resource Teachers, Social and Emotional Learning Counselors (SELCS), and GT department administration. Please see [their website](#) for more information and to complete the [short registration](#) form in order to get a link to participate virtually.

Here is the schedule for office hours for the 2025-26 school year:

12/11 (Thursday) changed to 5-6pm CogAT Information Night

1/14 (Wednesday) 5-6 pm

2/9 (Monday) 4-5 pm

3/12 (Thursday) 5-6 pm

4/21 (Tuesday) 5-6 pm

5/13 (Wednesday) 4-5 pm

Jeffco GT Dept: Book Clubs

Jeffco GT Social Emotional Learning Counselors will be holding book clubs with the following books:

Living With Intensity Edited by Susan Daniels and Michael M. Piechowski

Gifted children and adults are often misunderstood. Their excitement is viewed as excessive, their high energy as hyperactivity, their persistence as nagging, their imagination as not paying attention, their passion as being disruptive, their strong emotions and sensitivity as immaturity, and their creativity and self-directedness as oppositional. Living With Intensity describes these overexcitabilities, as well as strategies for dealing with children and adults who experience them. It also provides essential information on Dabrowski's Theory of Positive Disintegration. Learn practical methods for nurturing sensitivity, intensity, perfectionism, and much more.

6 Tuesday nights in-person

Beginning on Tuesday 1/13/26 through Tuesday 2/17/26

5:30-6:30 pm

Location: Westridge Elementary 10785 W Alamo Pl, Littleton, CO 80127

If This is a Gift, Can I Send it Back? by Jen Merrill

When you're living in the land of the gifted and twice exceptional, Jen Merrill, author of her latest book, *If This is a Gift, Can I Send it Back?: Surviving in the Land of the Gifted and Twice Exceptional*. Join Jen on her journey through discovery, understanding, and acceptance, as she copes with the challenges that only the gifted and twice exceptional can create. So, pull up a chair, get a cup of tea, and start reading. You'll swear Jen's written about you!

Virtual

This book study will begin in February on Thursdays from 7:00-8:00 pm.

[More information to come.](#)

Jeffco GT Dept: GT Parent Support/Q & A Group

Join us for discussions on how to support your GT student!

Meets every Thursday, January 15 – February 26, 2026

5:00pm – 6:00pm Virtually

[More information and virtual link](#)

This group is designed to be parent-led. We're here to support as needed, but our hope is that parents connecting with one another will create a strong network of shared support. Below are some optional articles you're welcome to explore. They're organized by general topic, though many touch on additional characteristics of gifted learners. All parents are welcome—whether you've been on the gifted-education journey for years or are just beginning. You can find lots of free articles at <https://sengifted.org/library/> and <https://www.davidsongifted.org/resource-library/>. We look forward to meeting you online!!

Check out JAGC's [Events](#) page for updates.

If you ever have questions about anything in our newsletters, or any questions about gifted & talented, always feel free to contact us at info@JeffcoGifted.org. We are parents helping parents and have many resources to help you advocate for your child(ren).





CAGT
Colorado Association for
Gifted and Talented

The Happenings

Your source for all gifted and talented events and news happening in Colorado and beyond!

What's Happening in December 2025?

Note:

* CAGT does not endorse individuals, organizations, or companies. The information included in this publication is for informational purposes only.



Events

Challenging Minds, Challenging Bans: Protecting Intellectual Freedom for Gifted Learners

December 3rd

Sponsored by NAGC

4:00-5:00pm EST

The recent rise in book bans impacts all students, but it is especially pernicious for our most gifted and promising learners. During this session we will investigate the impact of curricular censorship on gifted students and will explore ways to push back against book bans. Join us for a dynamic discussion about keeping intellectual freedom alive.

Location: Virtual

Cost: Free



Conversations with CAGT

Conversations with CAGT Update

We are working on season 6 of Conversations with CAGT. We will keep you posted when the new videos will be available. Until then you can revisit seasons 1-5 by clicking the link below and learn from various speakers on many different topics. Thank you for your patience while we get season 6 ready for you!

[Conversations with CAGT: Seasons 1 through 5](#)



Immediate Action Needed: Urge Congress to Restore Javits Program Funding

We need your voice now more than ever! Funding for the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Student Education Program — a lifeline for research, innovation, and equity in gifted education — has not been reinstated in the FY26 federal budget proposal. The Javits Gifted and Talented Student Education Program is the only federal funding program specifically focused on supporting gifted and talented learners. Losing this important funding would be a significant step backward for the field of gifted and talented education.

[Click here to contact your member of Congress now!](#)

There's Something in the Air: The Chemistry of the Atmosphere!

December 6th

Sponsored by CU Wizards

9:30-10:30am

Join Professors Kelvin Bates and Steven Brown for a one-hour workshop about chemistry! All students from preschool to middle school age are invited!

Location: Cristol Chemistry Building, Room 140,
University of Colorado-Boulder

Cost: Free

Jefferson County Association for Gifted Children Parent Support Meeting

December 9th

Sponsored by CAGT Affiliate: JAGC

5:15-6:00pm

The JAGC Board invites any Jeffco parent to join us and ask questions, or just need a space to find support for their GT and/or 2e child(ren). JAGC Board members will meet from 4:30-5:15pm and then from 5:15-6:00pm will be an open forum for any parents that want to join us. This is a great time for you to meet us and let us know how we can help support you and your child(ren).

Location: Jeffco Education Center, Room 2A,
1829 Denver West Dr., Golden, CO

Cost: Free

How to Interpret the CoGAT

December 11th

Sponsored by CAGT Affiliate: JAGC

5:00-6:00pm

Join this virtual office hour to ask questions of other JAGC leaders after watching the on-demand video: "Understanding the CogAT Assessment for Families and Students." Links to the video are provided on the website.

Location: Virtual

Cost: Free



Donations

Would you like to help more educators and students attend next year's CAGT Conference? Then, consider donating to CAGT's Scholarships! Each year, CAGT provides scholarship money to selected recipients – including educators, counselors, students, administrators, and gifted advocates – to attend our CAGT Conference. Help us grow the number of people who can benefit from these scholarships by donating today!

[Click here to make your donation!](#)

All CAGT donations made online are done securely through PayPal.



“The Happenings” en Español

Lo que los padres deben saber sobre la educación para dotados y talentosos (CPR News)

Algunos distritos escolares en Colorado están probando nuevos métodos para identificar a niños dotados entre estudiantes de color y otros grupos subrepresentados. A los niños a quienes identifican como dotados les pueden dar atención adicional en la escuela para desarrollar más sus habilidades.

[Enlace al artículo](#)

¿Cómo pueden las escuelas apoyar a estudiantes neurodivergentes? (Child Mind Institute)

Ofrecerles herramientas que les permitan prosperar académica y socialmente.

[Enlace al artículo](#)



Articles, Blogs and Gifted News

[“How Can We Depolarize “Gifted Education?”](#)
(Schooled)

[“The Existential Crisis of the Gifted”](#)
(Psychology Today)

[“How Young is Too Young for Gifted Testing?”](#)
(Hechinger Report)

[“High-achieving Students Deserve to be Challenged in School”](#) (Brookings Institute)

[“How to Support Gifted & Talented Students in the Classroom”](#) (Davidson Academy Blog)

[“Specific Parental Traits Are Linked to Distinct Cognitive Skills in Gifted Children”](#) (PsyPost)

[“Developer of AP Courses Launches New Classes Focused on Workforce Readiness”](#)
(The Sum & Substance)

[“My gifted teen has ADHD — and So. Much. Frustration.”](#) (ADDitude)

[“Guide to Gifted Friendships and Social Skills”](#)
(Davidson Institute)

[“5 Ways to Support Neurodivergent Children”](#)
(Edutopia)

[“Using Artificial Intelligence for intelligent learners”](#)
(National Association for Gifted Children)

[“We Grouped Students by Reading Ability Instead of Grade. Here’s What Happened “](#)
(Advance)

[“Pre-Service Teachers’ Beliefs About the Executive Functions of Gifted Students”](#)
(Education Sciences)

Reseña | Altas Capacidades, y ahora ¿qué hacemos? Guía Práctica para Docentes y Familias (El Diario de la Educación)

El libro *Altas Capacidades, y ahora ¿qué hacemos?* de Inés Cabezas y Susana García-Moya, editado por Editorial Popular en 2025, es una Guía Práctica para Docentes y Familias, con la cual van a entender mejor a su alumnado y a sus hijos e hijas para poderles acompañar en su proceso educativo.

[Enlace al artículo](#)

Inteligencia Emocional en niños superdotados: claves para educarla (Somos Altas Capacidades)

La inteligencia emocional es la capacidad para reconocer, comprender y gestionar las propias emociones, así como para reconocer, comprender e influir en las emociones de los demás.

[Enlace al podcast](#)



Advertising Opportunity!

Did you know *The Happenings* newsletter now provides advertising space to for-profit companies related to the enrichment of education and/or the education of gifted, talented, and creative students? Pricing starts at \$25 per ad! Our newsletter is sent to 1,000+ members every month, so it is a great opportunity to get the word out about your educationally related book, program, supply, or conference! There is a 10% discount for ads purchased with a 12 month subscription!

[Click here for details, pricing and additional information!](#)

[“Why America’s Debate Over Which Children Are Gifted Won’t Go Away”](#)
(The New York Times)



Podcasts, Videos & Webinars

[“How the Left Can Learn to Love Gifted Education”](#)
(The Education Gadfly Show)

[“Debunking Misperceptions about Giftedness with Megan Cannella”](#)
(Exceptional Girls Podcast)

[“Joyfully Parenting & Experiencing Gifted and 2e Children, with Marc Smolowitz”](#)
(Full Tilt Parenting Podcast)

[“Creating Change from Within: Leading and Learning in Gifted Education with Doug Alexander”](#) (Exceptionally Speaking Podcast)

Above graphics above courtesy of Pixabay

Links

[CAGT Calendar](#)

[CAGT Affiliates List](#)

[Conference Info](#)

If you would like for your gifted and talented event information to be included in The Happenings, then email your event information by the 20th of each month to Nisia Patalan at npatalan@sjboces.org.

CAGT Affiliates

Interested in learning more about CAGT and the work that we do to support gifted and talented youth, their parents and their educators? [Join CAGT](#) and reach out to an Affiliate organization in your area to get involved!

Adams County: AD12 GTPG [website](#) and [Facebook](#)

Boulder County: BVGT [website](#) and [Facebook](#)

Colorado Springs, Fort Carson and Fountain: PPAGS [Facebook](#)

Denver: DAGT [Facebook](#)

Douglas County: DCAGT [website](#) and [Facebook](#)

Fremont, Custer, Pueblo: LARA CAGT [website](#)

Jefferson County: JAGC [website](#) and [Facebook](#)

South Metro including Sheridan, Englewood, Littleton and Centennial: SoMe CAGT [website](#) and [Facebook](#)

Southwest Colorado including Bayfield, Ignacio, Mancos, Cortez, Dolores, and Durango: SWGT [website](#) and [Facebook](#)

Summit County: SAGE [website](#) and [Facebook](#)

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Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented
@ColoAssoc4GT



and Facebook CAGT Latino



Asociación de Colorado para Dotados y Talentosos



You are receiving this email thanks to your membership with CAGT or one of the CAGT Affiliate organizations. Thank you for supporting our organization and children who are gifted and talented..