



JAGC February 2026 Newsletter

SPARKS Gifted & Talented Summer Camp

Jeffco GT Department's [SPARKS Summer Enrichment Program](#) is a wonderful opportunity for gifted students in Jeffco entering grades 1st-8th to choose classes of interest, from art to computer coding, and to spend time with other gifted students.

June 8th-12th, 2026
Everitt Middle School
Registration opens March 2nd
Find more information in the [February 2026 GT Gazette](#).

Early Access

[Early Access Process](#) - To meet the needs of highly advanced children who have not yet entered kindergarten, Jeffco Public Schools may grant early entrance to school, for highly advanced gifted children, with a body of evidence at or above the 97th percentile, who do not meet the age requirements outlined in [Board Policy JEB](#).

The [application](#) is open January 5, 2026 - April 1, 2026 at 4pm.



Jeffco GT Department's February 2026 GT Gazette

Includes information on:
SPARKS Summer Program
Destination Imagination
ENC's 2026 Jeffco Writing Challenge for Grades K-12
ENC's 2026 I Love to Read Contest for Grades K-12

Online Community for Parents in Jeffco and Denver with Children on an IEP and/or 504

Shannon Secrest, MPA, Founder & CEO of [The 504 Project](#), Jeffco Public School parent & advocate, and Ororah Bell, BCBA, Denver Public School parent, have created two private Facebook groups for Jeffco and Denver parents of students on IEPs and/or 504s. These groups are designed to bring together families to learn from one another, find or provide resources, ask questions, and identify areas of improvement. This would include any student who falls within the Exceptional Students/Special Education Department or for those families who need an evaluation for identification and eligibility. These are closed groups to allow candid discussions and community collaboration.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/872195758938901> Jeffco

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3402005439952501> Denver

Jeffco GT Department Events

Jeffco GT Department is offering several upcoming events:

[GT Office Hours for Parents](#)

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

See Upcoming Events below for more information on each.

Jeffco School's Budget Reduction Blueprint

All Jeffco schools are looking at cuts for next school year. Attend your school's School Accountability Committee (SAC) meetings to have input on next year's school budget. You should be able to find your school's SAC webpage on the school's website under the Connect tab. However, not all schools have SAC information readily available on their websites. Sometimes they are grouped with PTA/PTSA meetings. Or you may need to search the school's webpage for 'SAC.'

Also note that cuts at the district level may affect some aspects of the support schools receive for Special Education and Gifted & Talented, among other areas.

You can find the description of district level cuts that was presented at the January 7th Board of Education meeting [here](#).

Information on [Jeffco's Budget Reduction Blueprint](#).

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.

JAGC Parent Support Meetings - We Want to Hear from You!

We are reimagining our traditional board meetings to encourage time for 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). We are looking forward to having you join us and to partner with you to help your GT/2e journey be successful!

If you have additional questions, please email us directly at info@jeffcogifted.org. If meeting in-person is not an option for you, we can set up an online meeting to ensure we are able to support you.

2nd Tuesday of the month Sept. 9th, Oct. 14th, Nov. 11th, Dec. 9th, Jan. 13th, Feb. 10th, March 10th, April 14th, May 12th, and June 9th (if needed). Please check our [website](#) for updates.

Jeffco Education Center, Room 2A
1829 Denver West Dr., Golden, CO 80401
4:30-5:15pm JAGC Board Meeting (all are welcome)
5:15-6:30pm Open Forum for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers
Please email info@jeffcogifted.org if you plan to attend.

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!!

CU Wizards: "The Physics of Superheroes & Villains!"

Presented by: Professor James Thompson

Saturday, February 28, 2026

9:30am - 10:30am

Duane Physics G1B30

University of Colorado, Boulder

Free

"Join University of Colorado Physics Professor James Thompson as he explains how superheroes' understanding of fundamental physics ensures truth and thwarts villains! Sparks, explosions, and plenty of action will punctuate this free STEM show that's open to students of all ages!"

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! All are invited to attend these FREE shows!

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

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 are the remaining scheduled office hours for the 2025-26 school year:

3/12 (Thursday) 5-6 pm

4/21 (Tuesday) 5-6 pm

5/13 (Wednesday) 4-5 pm

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 February 2026?

We are sorry we missed you in January. We are transitioning editors and formats and took a month to organize. New and improved newsletter coming in March!

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



Events

2026 Teacher's Summit
February 10th and 11th
Sponsored by NAGC
11:00am-5:00pm EST

The NAGC Teachers Summit provides practitioners with tools and strategies to serve the unique needs of your gifted and high-potential students. Learn from both practicing educators and experts in the field as you create your own learning experience through flexible, dynamic online PD at this event custom-created just for teachers. Attend live and interact with presenters, then follow up with on demand learning through more than 15 additional hours of recorded content provided post-conference.

Location: Virtual

Cost: \$259 (non member)



Conversations with CAGT

Conversations with CAGT Update

We apologize for the late start as we redesigned Conversations with CAGT (CWC). Our new format kickstarted season 6 in January. This season, instead of going live on Facebook on the 1st Tuesday of the month, we will post a link on Facebook to watch the new recorded episode. On the following Tuesday, we will post featured archived episodes for you to (re)watch.

You can also access all CWC episodes from this season and the past five seasons through our [website](#).

March's CWC will air on Tuesday March 3rd with our guest Emily Kircher-Morris. She will be discussing, "Friendships for Gifted Learners". Check our Facebook for the link on March 3rd and enjoy our new CWC for Season 6!

We hope you continue to watch archived episodes of Conversations with CAGT covering all things gifted. It is our mission to provide supportive resources for gifted educators, and our CWCs are available and free to all.

Book Discussion for Parents/Guardians

Sunday, February 22nd

Sponsored by BVGT

1:00-3:00pm

Join fellow parents of gifted and twice-exceptional children for an informal discussion of Emotional Intensity in Gifted Students: Helping Kids Cope with Explosive Feelings by Christine Fonseca.

Location: East Simpson Coffee Company (201 E. Simpson Sy, Lafayette, CO)

The Physics of Superheroes & Villains!

February 28th

Sponsored by CU Wizards

9:30-10:30am

Join Professor James Thompson for a one-hour workshop about physics.

Location: Duane Physics G1B30 University of Colorado-Boulder

Cost: Free'

The Struggle is Real: Recognizing and Responding to #GiftedKidBurnout

March 3rd

Sponsored by the Adams 12 GTPG

7:00-8:00pm

This session takes a clear-eyed look at why burnout shows up so frequently in gifted learners and why it is often misunderstood or missed entirely. We'll explore contributing factors such as perfectionism, pressure, identity strain, and chronic mismatch between learners and learning environments. More importantly, we'll focus on practical strategies for recognizing warning signs, designing healthier learning experiences, and helping gifted learners reconnect with purpose, balance, and hope.

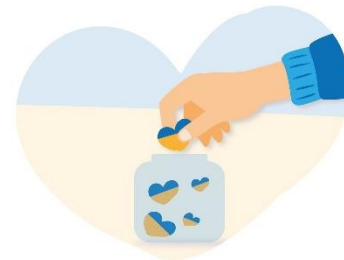
Location: online

Cost: Free

Legislative Day - February 19th



Students chosen to attend the 2026 Legislative Day will be notified on February 6th!



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.



Resources

February is Black History Month!

Celebrating Black Excellence in Gifted Education:
[Resources for Educators & Caregivers](#)
[Research on Gifted Black Students](#)
[Historical Roots in Gifted Education](#)
[Celebrating Black Leaders in Gifted Education](#)
(all resources from NAGC)



“The Happenings” en Español

[Consejos para festejar con confianza y sin estrés](#)

Las celebraciones sociales pueden ser estimulantes y a la vez desafiantes para personas neurodivergentes o de altas capacidades. Este artículo ofrece consejos prácticos para que quienes viven la neurodivergencia puedan disfrutar de fiestas y eventos respetando sus límites sensoriales y emocionales, desde preparar un kit sensorial hasta comunicar claramente sus necesidades y selecciones de comida. Una guía útil para familias y anfitriones que quieren crear celebraciones más inclusivas y tranquilas.

[Be Stubborn About What Matters: Leading with Purpose and Possibility](#)

(NAGC - Written by Colleen Urlik & Rebecca McKinney)

[‘Gifted’ - Rooted in values, scorned as elitist, and now, in the age of AI, about to go extinct?](#)

(Harvard Gazette)

[Why Are Intellectually Gifted People Disregarded While Athletically Gifted Folks Are Adored? The Rant.](#)

(Rainforest Mind)

[Many School Gifted Programs Are Unfair. Shutting Them Will Make Inequities Worse](#)

(The 74)

[Why America’s Debate Over Which Children Are ‘Gifted’ Won’t Go Away](#)

(NY Times)

[The Anxiety of Raising Gifted Children: Why Optimizing Their Full Potential Can Break Them \(and Us\)](#)

(The Davidson Institute)

[Science says we’ve been nurturing “gifted” kids all wrong](#)

(Science Daily)

[Using Empathy Interviews to Lower Barriers Between Student Cliques](#)

(Edutopia)

[Parenting the Child You Have \(Not the One You Expected\)](#)

(Neurodiversity 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!](#)

Free Workshops on Unlocking Hidden Student Talent

Project EAGLE is offering a one-day interactive workshops in Colorado that equip educators with practical tools and strategies to identify talent in students—especially those from underserved populations.



Who Should Attend

- School Administrators
- 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade Teachers
- Gifted Specialists

Participants will learn an alternative approach for recognizing gifted behaviors in diverse learners and fostering inclusive learning environments that cultivate mathematical potential. Each session blends research-based theory with hands-on practice, ensuring participants leave with strategies they can implement immediately. All workshops are conducted by Project EAGLE trained Colorado educators.

This training may satisfy ML/GT/Math training hours depending upon your district requirements.

PROJECT EAGLE IS FUNDED BY JACOB K. JAVITS GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS EDUCATION PROGRAM, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PR/AWARD # S206A220040 THROUGH A GRANT AWARDED TO THE RENZULLI CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT.

Find a Workshop and Register at <https://s.uconn.edu/gtid>

Eliciting Advanced Gifted Learning Evidence



Additional Resources:

[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 15th of each month to Nisia Patalan at: cagtnisia@gmail.com.

Above graphics courtesy of Pixabay

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](#)

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

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and Facebook CAGT Latino



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..