



JAGC May 2025 Newsletter

JAGC's Newsletter Taking the Summer Off

This is JAGC's final newsletter for the 2024-25 school year. We will be back in September to keep you connected with Gifted & Talented activities. Even though our newsletter is taking the summer off, we are always available to answer any questions we can help with at info@jeffcogifted.org. Please don't hesitate to reach out!

Notice From Jeffco Public Schools

In April, Matt Palaoro, Chief Student Success Officer for Jeffco Public Schools, sent an email to Jeffco Public School families with children who have ALPs, IEPs, and 504s. It stated:

Dear Jeffco Families,

Amid ongoing national conversations about education systems and student services, we want to take a moment to reaffirm something that will not change: Jeffco's deep commitment to students who receive support through Special Education, a 504 Plan, and Gifted & Talented programming.

We are here to serve and support every student in Jeffco—and we remain focused on ensuring your child receives the services, opportunities, and care they deserve.

Thank you for the trust you place in us. We are proud to partner with you in support of your child's learning and growth.

*With appreciation,
Matt Palaoro
Chief Student Success Officer*

Lisa Van Gemert - Perfectionism

[Jeffco GT Department](#) Parent Family Night with **Lisa Van Gemert** - Mary Poppins Syndrome: Practical Interventions for the Practically Perfect

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

6:00-7:45pm

Virtual

[Information and RSVP](#)

Is perfectionism preventing your child from experiencing the joys of childhood? This session focuses on the practical, day-to-day (sometimes minute-to-minute) tips and techniques parents can employ to not only manage but mitigate perfectionistic tendencies in their children and teens (and even themselves). This session focuses on seven key strategies ready to drag-and-drop into your home immediately. Come learn the Timing Strategy, how to tell if perfectionism really is a problem, the value of goal disengagement, and the Level Strategy. Leave with a supercalifragilisticexpialidocious toolbox of effective ideas.

JAGC's Summer Programs List

Our [list of summer programs](#) has been updated for 2025! It offers a breakdown by age.

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.

[Jeffco GT Department: GT Office Hours for Parents](#)

The GT Department is excited to announce that we will be offering office hours for our Parents. We will provide a connection opportunity for parents and families to ask general questions that they have about our department, GT programming in Jeffco, Center Schools, and other higher level topics with our Resource Teachers, Social Emotional Learning Counselors, and department leadership. Please see [our website](#) for more information and to complete the [short registration](#) form in order to get a link to participate virtually.

Schedule of office hours for the remainder of the school year:

5/6 (Tuesday) 3:30-4:30 pm

CU Wizards Professor Thomas Perkins "From very, very small to VERY VERY BIG! Microscopy and the Powers of Ten!"

Saturday, May 17, 2025

9:30am - 10:30am

Duane Physics G1B30, University of Colorado, Boulder

Free

Learn about how for multiplying or dividing by 10 changes BIG to small and back again! Prof. Perkin's powerful microscopes will be set up allowing students to take a much, much closer look at insect eyes, blood cells, fruit flies, elegant worms (*C. elegans*) and more...!

Autism Parenting Summit

London, UK

Virtual

Videos Available for 24 hours for free

May 16-19, 2025

Special Guest Speaker **Dr. Temple Grandin**

CU Wizards Professor Monika Fleshner "Superheroes Within: Immunity in Health & Disease!"

Saturday, June 14, 2025

9:30am - 10:30am

Cristol Chemistry 140, University of Colorado, Boulder

Free

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).



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.



CAGT
Colorado Association for
Gifted and Talented

The Happenings

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

What's Happening in May?

Notes

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



Events

[Lisa Van Gemert Presents Mary Poppins Syndrome: Practical Interventions for the Practically Perfect](#)

May 7th

6:00-7:45pm (Mountain)

Sponsored by JeffCo GT Department

Is perfectionism preventing your child from experiencing the joys of childhood? This session focuses on the practical, day-to-day (sometimes minute-to-minute) tips and techniques parents can employ to not only manage but mitigate perfectionistic tendencies in their children and teens (and even themselves).

Location: Virtual

Cost: Free



Conference Registration Open!

We are excited to have you join us this year for the 47th Annual CAGT Conference, Empowering Change, October 19th-21st. This year's theme provides opportunities for us to come together as educators to learn how to help students embrace change and become the change agents for our future. Take advantage of this opportunity to use some of your remaining building/district funds and register now for Early Bird pricing! The conference will offer attendees over 80 sessions examining various facets of the giftedness our incredibly diverse gifted youth possess, as well as delving into what educators and GT supporters need to know about the vast and varied GT child.

[Click here for information about the conference](#)

The Students Speak: thoughts on Living with Perfectionism

May 8th

7:00pm (Eastern)

Sponsored by NAGC

In what ways might perfectionism affect the lived experience of our gifted students? How much do the parental and teacher supports assist with moving through the challenges our students face? Join us as we hear from the student perspective of how perfectionism impacts their day to day interactions.

Location: Virtual

Cost: Free (registration required)

Autism Parenting Summit

May 16th-19th

Sponsored by Autism Parenting Magazine

From the comfort of your home, navigate the challenges of the autism spectrum and learn how you can give a child the best start in life from our panel of experts. The Special Guest Speaker this year will be Dr. Temple Grandin! Videos will be available for 24 hours for free.

Location: Virtual

Cost: Free

From Very, Very Small to VERY VERY BIG! Microscopy and the Powers of Ten!

May 17th

9:30-10:30am (Mountain)

Sponsored by CU Wizards

Join Professor Thomas Perkins to learn more about microscopy! This event is open to all students in grades K-12 and their parents!

Location: CU-Boulder, Duane Physics Building G1B30

Cost: Free

Swim Social for Gifted Children and Their Families

May 18th

10:00am-12:00pm (Mountain)

Sponsored by CAGT Affiliate: AD12GTPG

Get a jump start on summer fun and come hang out at the City Park pool with other GT families! This event is for any age GT or Talent Pool students, their siblings, and their parents or caregivers. (An adult must stay for the duration; this is NOT a drop-off event.)

Location: Westminster City Park Recreation Center, 10455 Sheridan Boulevard, Westminster, CO

Cost: \$7 per person



Conversations with CAGT

Conversations with CAGT presents timely, relevant topics by preeminent local, national, and international specialists in the field of gifted education! Programs premier on the first Tuesday of the month at 5:00 pm MST on Facebook Live. [Check out past Conversations with CAGT programs on our website.](#) Conversations with CAGT is an incredible opportunity to get expert advice on topics regarding giftedness for FREE with time to ask your questions! Click the Facebook link below:

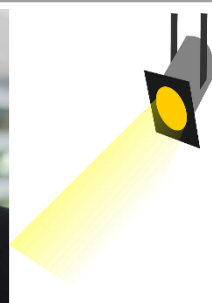
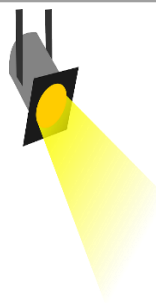


Tuesday, May 6th: Terra Price

“Supporting Gifted Learners Through Positive Psychology: Addressing Intensities and Fostering Well-Being”

Tuesday, June 3rd: Matthew Makel

“Identification of Gifted Learners”



**Get to Know CAGT Executive Board Member:
CAGT Past President Mark Hess**

Mark is a Colorado native with over 37 years in Colorado K-12 public education. He is an NAGC board member and a Teacher on Special Assignment for Gifted and Talented in Colorado Springs. Mark has published nine books and over 150 digital units—including his social-emotional curriculum series, a hands-on literacy series, and I Used to Be Gifted, a guide for adults, teachers, and parents.



It is especially important to be an advocate for our gifted and advanced learners in Colorado! Effective advocacy is more than just being passionate about gifted education; it is knowing how to convey your message without alienating those who influence the decision-making process.

[Visit CAGT's Advocacy Toolkit resource page to learn more.](#)

[NAGC's Opportunity and Access Symposium 2025](#)

May 29th

Sponsored by NAGC

The Opportunity and Access Symposium 2025 is a premier virtual event designed to empower educators, school leaders, and advocates committed to expanding opportunities in gifted and advanced learning programs. Hosted online on May 29, 2025, this engaging and thought-provoking symposium provides practical strategies and research-driven insights to help schools and districts recognize, support, and elevate high-ability students from all backgrounds.

Location: Virtual

Cost: \$99/members or \$129/non-members



In the News & GT Articles

["Twice-Exceptionality: A Resource Guide for Parents"](#)

(Davidson Gifted Blog)

["Trust Your Parent Gut"](#) (Davidson Gifted Blog)

["The connection between preparatory experiences and student perceptions of college readiness"](#)

(Flypaper Blog)

["The brilliant, unique world of child prodigies"](#) (CBS News)

["Schools need some education on how they teach youth"](#)

(News Decoder)

["The Tragic Truth of Being Gifted: Misunderstood and Marginalized"](#) (Medium)

Scholarships & Awards

Youth Impact Award Nominations

Each year, these awards are granted to children ages 7-18, who have made a positive, meaningful, and beneficial impact on others in their classroom, school and/or community.

Leadership Awards Nominations

Nominate one or more incredible educators, administrators, parents, advocates, and community members who are doing amazing things for gifted children and their education.

CAGT Conference Scholarship Applications

This year's CAGT Scholarships to attend the 2025 conference, *Empowering Change*, are now open. Take advantage of the many scholarships to attend October's conference and learn from local, national and international experts from the field of gifted education.

[Click here for more information about CAGT awards and scholarships](#)



Donate to CAGT's Legislative and Advocacy Efforts!

Support our Advocacy efforts! CAGT works closely with our lobbyists to help state decision makers understand the needs of our gifted students and help to [get legislation passed](#) resulting in programming that may have an academic, social, emotional or financial benefit to our gifted students.

All CAGT donations made online are done securely through PayPal. You can make a one-time or recurring donation of any amount you choose. To donate in recognition or in memory of a special person, make sure you enter his/her name in the "Add a note" text box during checkout.

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



Recorded Media & Resources

[“When Being Gifted No Longer Feels Like a Gift”](#)
(The Pulse Podcast)

[“What Kind of Gifted Person Do You Want to Be?”](#)
(Gifted Challenges)

[“Unlocking Motivation in Neurodivergent Children”](#)
(Neurodiversity Podcast)

[“Why some researchers are approaching giftedness as a form of neurodivergence - and what that means for ‘gifted burnout’”](#) (WHYY The Pulse)

[“Benefits to infusing creativity into classroom routines”](#) (WACOM)

[“Encouraging Exploration and Innovation in the Classroom”](#) (Edutopia)

[“Why Asking for Help Feels Hard for Gifted Students—And How to Change It”](#)
(ASMSA Executive Director Corey Alderdice video)

[“How to Better Support Gifted Students: A Coffee Break Chat with Lauren Parker”](#)
(Thriving School Psychologist Collective video)

Above graphics above courtesy of Pixabay



Stay in the Know about Colorado Gifted Education Legislation!

Visit the [CAGT website](#) to read about state and federal legislation, past and current bills that have impacted gifted education and a continually updated link to legislation from this year’s session. CAGT will work to keep you informed of bills that will not only benefit all children, but also those that address the specific needs of our gifted students.

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](#)

Northeast BOCES and Sterling: NECAGT [website](#)

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](#)

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 Molly Gibney at cagtmolly@gmail.com.