



JAGC October 2024 Newsletter

Advocating for Your Gifted Child

In the season of parent-teacher conferences, JAGC would like to help you prepare with a special Parent Advocacy newsletter. We hope you find all the information you need to advocate for your gifted child. However, if you ever have questions that we can help with, please don't hesitate to reach out at info@jeffcogifted.org. We are always happy to help you on your path to reach the best educational outcome for your child.

Beneficial Teaching Concepts for Gifted Students

This article is at the heart of parent advocacy. In it parents are introduced to acceleration, enrichment, extension, and differentiation with examples. The article talks about working with your child's teacher and principal and provides opportunities available to benefit your GT child's educational journey.

How to Advocate for Your 2e Child

This article provides perspective and resources from Jeffco parents for advocating for a twice exceptional (2e – gifted with a disability) child. This article also explains how to apply for gifted and special education identification in Jeffco Schools.

Understanding Student Assessment Scores

To better advocate for your child, understanding assessment scores and how to find them is essential. This article explains the main assessments Jeffco Schools uses: DIBELS, MAP, CMAS, PSAT, and SAT and how to access Student Insights to find your child's MAP and CMAS scores. In addition, it discusses what to keep in mind when reviewing your child's assessment scores. This article also touches on graduation requirements and how to access NWEA's College Explorer Tool which shows where your child is tracking for college using MAP scores as early as 5th grade.

JAGC's Parent-Teacher Conferences Checklist

Find some helpful hints for a successful parent-teacher conference for your gifted child. There are also links to articles that offer guidance in advocating for your child.

PSAT - What You Need to Know Before Your Gifted Child Takes the PSAT

We have highlighted this article over the last many years and wanted to bring it back again this year. Thank you to Ginny Riley for writing "[One Day Matters: A Mom's Journey](#)" about her son who was a National Merit Semi-Finalist at Conifer High School. She brings to light how gifted students often score lower, typically in math, each time they take the PSAT, why this happens, and how to keep this from happening to your child.

Note: PSAT/NMSQT is offered in the fall, typically October, to high school sophomores and juniors. Please check with your high school as to when they are offering it. This is a different version of the PSAT than what is given to 9th and 10th graders in the spring.

[Misperceptions of Giftedness: Are You Struggling With What Those Around You Believe Gifted Is?](#) This article provides some tools to communicate to parents, teachers, and school administrators, about what gifted is and what gifted is NOT.

[Misdiagnosis and Dual Diagnosis of Gifted Children by James T. Webb, Ph.D., ABPP-CI](#)

Many gifted and talented children (and adults) are being misdiagnosed by psychologists and other health care professionals because specific social and emotional characteristics of gifted children are mistakenly assumed to be signs of pathology. In other cases, gifted students who have a diagnosed disability (twice exceptional or 2e – gifted with a disability) often don't have their giftedness considered in educational planning or treatment. This article discusses these issues.

[ADD/ADHD vs Gifted Behavior](#)

While some individuals may be both gifted and have ADD/ADHD, there are cases where giftedness is mistaken for ADD/ADHD. In this chart you can see the similarities side by side.

Jeffco GT Department Gifted & Talented Center Application

The 2024 [Fall GT Center Testing application](#) window (for the 2025-26 school year) is now open until **October 25, 2024**. The application and testing is for GT Center placement for the *2025-26 school year*. Even if you aren't sure if you want to move your child to a GT Center if they qualify, apply anyway. You can always decline, but you can't accept if you haven't applied.

[Find out more about ALPs here.](#)

[Find out more about GT Centers here.](#) And [which schools have GT Centers](#) (this is an old map but is accurate except that Sheridan Green Elementary closed and the GT Center moved to Ryan Elementary, and Kendrick Lakes Elementary is phasing out their GT Center).

If you have questions, attend one of the monthly Jeffco GT Department's [Virtual Office Hours](#). If those don't work for your schedule, reach out to your school's [GT Resource Teacher](#).

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).

GT Forum Survey

From [Jeffco School's Gifted & Talented Department](#), "We're continuing to gather participants for the Jeffco GT Forum, a group focused on providing valuable feedback to improve Gifted and Talented identification and programming in Jeffco Schools. If you are interested in providing feedback a few times this school year through an online survey, please complete the [participant survey](#)."

Parent/Guardian Group For Those with Children on the Autism Spectrum, Whether Formally Identified or Not, in Jeffco Public Schools

Having a Twice Exceptional (2e – gifted with a disability) child can be incredibly challenging to navigate. There is no linear path to help your child and can often feel overwhelming and lonely. Our group primarily consists of parents in Jeffco with student(s) who are Gifted & Talented (GT) and on the Autism Spectrum. If you have a 2e child, whether or not they have been identified as being on the Autism Spectrum, you are welcome to join our group and share your journey. This group was created with the aspiration of finding and connecting families to help them know that they are not alone and to expand on our community. We are currently a group of 20 families who started meeting earlier in 2024 through online, in person, and at social gatherings. This has allowed us to really get to know each other and to exchange ideas and stories on what is working and what isn't. We also have had guest speakers that are experts in their field to help our parents with any questions they may have. Connection is key and this group helps navigate the journey that is 2e. If you are interested in joining this group, please reach out to info@jeffcogifted.org. Your email will be forwarded to Allison Jussel and she will contact you to share more information. We would love for you to join us and to help grow this wonderful community!

Upcoming Events

CU Wizards: Black Holes

Join Professor Susan Hendrickson and Steven Brown to learn more about the Chemistry of Magic! Geared for students in grades K-8, but all are welcome. Click [here](#) for more information.

Saturday, October 19, 2024

9:30am-10:30am

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

Cost: Free

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.

Here is the schedule of office hours for the remainder of the school year:

10/14 (Monday) 5-6 pm

11/14 (Thursday) 5-6 pm

12/16 (Monday) 3:30-4:30 pm

1/22 (Wednesday) 4-5 pm

2/26 (Wednesday) 4-5 pm

3/11 (Tuesday) 5-6 pm

4/17 (Thursday) 5-6 pm

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

Save the Date

[Jeffco GT Department Events:](#)

- December 10, 2024 (GT Testing and Identification in Jeffco)

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!

The Happenings provides access to a variety of events, articles, videos, podcasts, and webinars to help support children who are gifted.

What's Happening in October?

Notes

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



Events

Davidson Fellows Scholarship Information Session

Sponsored by Davidson Institute

Come learn more about this scholarship that honors young people for their work in STEM and the Humanities. Awards of \$50,000, \$25,000 and \$10,000 are available to gifted and high-achieving students.

Location: Online

Cost: Free

October 8th at 4:00pm Pacific



Conversations with CAGT

*Conversations with CAGT is back with an all-new season of timely, relevant topics by preeminent local, national, and international specialists in the field of gifted education! CWC has a new format this season with programs premiering 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!*

Tuesday, October 1st: Susan Assouline

"Let's Talk Acceleration in a Changing Educational Landscape"

Click the Facebook link below to follow *Conversations with CAGT*.



[Developing Student's Talents with AI](#)

Sponsored by the Renzulli Center for Creativity, Gifted Education and Talent Development

Join Andrew Abate to discuss how artificial intelligence could support your gifted child's talents!

Location: Online

Cost: Free

October 19th at 11:00am Eastern

[CU Wizards: The Chemistry of Magic](#)

Sponsored by University of Colorado-Boulder

Join Professors Susan Hendrickson and Stephen Brown to learn more about the chemistry behind magic tricks! Students ages 8-18 are invited!

Location: Cristol Chemistry Building, Room 140, CU-Boulder

Cost: Free

October 19th at 9:30am

[BVGT Playdate: STEAM Challenges and Destination Imagination](#)

Sponsored by CAGT Affiliate: BVGT

Join BVGT for STEAM challenges and Destination Imagination fun! Appropriate for kids grades K-8, more information at www.bvgt.org.

Location: Community Room, Mountain View Fire Station 2 (7700 Baseline Rd, Boulder, CO 80303)

Cost: Free

October 20th from 3:00-4:30pm

[Beyond High Potential: Understanding Giftedness Through a Neurodivergent Lens with Marni Kammersell](#)

Sponsored by CAGT Affiliate: BVGT

This talk will explore the importance of viewing giftedness as part of neurodivergence, rather than focusing solely on academic potential or achievement, and will highlight the crucial role accurate identification plays in supporting the mental health and well-being of gifted children.

Location: Lafayette Public Library, 775 W. Baseline Rd., Lafayette, CO 80026

Cost: Free

October 27th from 2:00-3:30pm



2024 Conference Registration

Join us for the 46th Annual CAGT Conference, Purpose & Passion, this October 20th-22nd! We are thrilled to announce that **Dr. Temple Grandin** is joining us as a keynote for this year's conference! We are also excited to have this incredible line-up of featured speakers: **Dr. Kristina Collins, Richard Cash** and **Dr. Rick Olenchak**.

Come to the conference to learn from and be inspired by these keynotes and to hear from over 80 presenters sharing their knowledge and expertise covering topics that impact our GT kids and their education! There are sessions for educators, special education providers, mental health support teams, parents, administrators and district leaders.

As a bonus, if you register for the 2 Day conference registration option, you will also be able to attend our virtual conference for free!

[Click here](#) for the registration link!



Conference 2024 Shirts

If you would like to pre-order a t-shirt for this year's conference, please fill out [this form](#). You can pick up your shirt at the CAGT Table in the main hallway at the conference and pay for the shirt at that time. Shirts are \$20!



In the News & GT Articles

[8 Tips for Disciplining Your Gifted Child](#)
(Advanced Psychology Services)

[Emotional Intelligence in Gifted Students](#)
(Davidson Academy Blog)

[Why Addressing the Social and Emotional Needs of Gifted Students is Critical for Their Success](#) (Gifted Guru)

[The Curse of the Gifted Label](#) (KERA Think)

[Eye on Education: Needs and Common Traits of Gifted and Talented Kids](#) (Daily Republic)



Recorded Media & Resources

[Gifted Adults: Work the Way You're Wired to Increase Impact by Meghan Bonde](#) (TEDx video)

[National Standards in Gifted and Talented Education](#) (NAGC)

Student Talent Video Contest!

Students in grades K-12 are invited to create a Tik-Tok style video (about 20 seconds long) showing off their amazing talent! The best videos will be compiled into a video showcase that will be shown at this year's CAGT Conference.

Click here for the flyers in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
Video submissions due **October 6th**

Conference 2024 Programs

This year if you want a conference program you will need to purchase one before the conference. The charge for the program is \$5.00. We also have a conference app that will have all of the information for any attendee to access. Please click for [Program Purchase Form](#)

CAGT Affiliates

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

Adams County: Adams 12 GT Parent Group
(AD12 GTPG [website](#) and [Facebook](#))

Boulder County: Boulder Valley Gifted and Talented
(BVGTT [website](#) and [Facebook](#))

Colorado Springs, Fort Carson and Fountain:
Pikes Peak Association for Gifted Students
(PPAGS [Facebook](#))

Denver: Denver Association for Gifted and Talented
(DAGT [Facebook](#))

Douglas County: Douglas County Association for Gifted and Talented
(DCAGT [website](#) and [Facebook](#))

Fremont, Custer, Pueblo: Lower Arkansas River Affiliate
(LARA CAGT [website](#))

Jefferson County: Jefferson County Association for Gifted Children
(JAGC [website](#) and [Facebook](#))

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

[Episode 243: Am I the Imposter Among Us?](#) (Neurodiversity Podcast)

[Supporting and Understanding Levels of Giftedness in Homeschooled Children](#) (Raising Lifelong Learners)

Above graphics above courtesy of Pixabay



New Books

[Parenting Gifted Children: Advocacy for Excellence – Empowering Parents and Gifted Children with Strategies for Academic, Emotional and Social Success](#) by Bruce D. Wright PhD and Elaine K. Wright, July 2024.

[Gifted Students: Special Education on the Other Side of the Curve - 2024](#) by Hector Rivera, August 2024.

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.

South Metro including Sheridan, Englewood, Littleton and Centennial:

South Metro CAGT (SoMe CAGT [website](#) and [Facebook](#))

Southwest Colorado including Bayfield, Ignacio, Mancos, Cortez, Dolores, and Durango: Southwest Gifted and Talented Community (SWGTT [website](#) and [Facebook](#))

Summit County: Summit Advocates for Gifted Education (SAGE [website](#) and [Facebook](#))

Advocacy Toolkit

Lawmakers in the House of Representatives have proposed eliminating the Javits Gifted and Talented Education grant program in FY25. This is the only federal funding dedicated specifically to gifted and talented education.

[Please voice your opposition to this proposed cut!](#) The Javits Act orchestrates a coordinated program of scientifically based research, demonstration projects, innovative strategies, and similar activities that build and enhance elementary and secondary schools' ability to meet the special educational needs of gifted and talented students!

The Javits Act focuses resources on identifying and serving students who are traditionally underrepresented in gifted and talented programs to help reduce achievement gaps and encourage the establishment of equal educational opportunities for all students.

In addition to demonstration grants, the Javits Act funds the [National Research and Development Center for the Education of Gifted and Talented Children and Youth](#), which conducts a focused program of research that includes an exploratory study, an impact evaluation, and leadership and outreach activities to ensure that the research informs education practice.

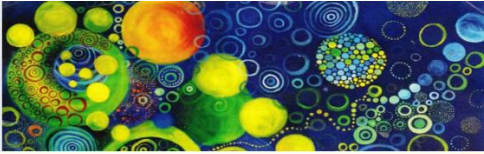
We are asking all supporters of gifted and talented education to [please take two minutes to email their House members](#) and ask them to save Javits funding in FY25.

Click [here](#) to send your representative a pre-written (customizable) e-mail opposing this drastic cut to gifted education funding.

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Asociación de
Colorado para
Dotados y
Talentosos



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.