



## March 2019 Newsletter

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.

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## **Jeffco Gifted & Talented Department Information**

### **SPARKS Camp Update – Registration Deadline March 30**

We still have spaces left for some of our GT classes -- please visit our [SPARKS website](#) for logistical information and the link to register. Registration closes March 30.

### **Parent Seminar “Ask Us Anything” Questions + Answers**

Last month, the Jeffco Gifted & Talented (GT) Parent Seminar "Ask Us Anything" offered a panel of Jeffco GT Resource Teachers, high school students, and JAGC parents to answer questions from the audience. Since we ran out of time to answer them all, parents in attendance wrote down the questions they didn't have an opportunity to ask during the seminar. We have created a [document](#) with answers to those questions. We gathered information from those on the panel and others. This document may be updated if more answers come in.

### **CogAT 7 / ALP Parent Night**

The Cognitive Abilities Test 7 or CogAT 7 is used to assess students' abilities in reasoning and problem solving using verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal assessments. We will be discussing what these scores mean and how they can be better used to understand the learner. Join the GT Department on Tuesday, April 9 from 6:30-8 p.m., 5th Floor Boardroom, Jeffco Ed Center, 1829 Denver West Dr., Lakewood, CO.

## Jeffco News

### [Jeffco Virtual Academy Online Gifted & Talented Classes](#)

The Gifted and Talented Department, in collaboration with Jeffco's 21st Century Virtual Academy (JVA), offers online GT courses. This school year the program will start with 7th grade core classes: GT Language Arts 7, GT Math 7/8, GT Science 7, and GT Social Studies 7. Classes are taught by certified GT teachers and offer the opportunity for GT students to participate in an engaging online curriculum that incorporates both the academic and social-emotional needs of gifted students.

Families may work with JVA and their home schools in order to arrange for their gifted children to take one or more GT class during their school day in their area(s) of strength. All students are required to have an Advanced Learning Plan (ALP) and an eligibility form completed and approved by their home school's counselor or administrator. Please see this [page](#) for more information and to register. Course information is [here](#).

### [Jeffco Early Access for Kindergarten and First Grade – Applications Due March 21](#) **Testing for Entrance to Kindergarten or First Grade for the 2019-2020 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."

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 Oct. 1, 2019 and for early entrance to first grade, a child must be 5 years old by Oct. 1, 2019.

How to apply for Early Access (cost is \$250):

1. Fill out the online [application](#), which opened Jan. 2.
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 are due by March 21**.
4. Parents will be contacted to schedule Cognitive Testing (DAS-II - Differential Ability Scales). Testing is typically scheduled in 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 takes approximately 2 hours.
6. Notification of acceptance and non-acceptance is typically sent to parents by early May.

For questions about Jeffco Early Access, contact the Jeffco GT Dept. at 303-982-6650 or email [gtinform@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:gtinform@jeffco.k12.co.us).

## **[Warren Tech 2019-2020 Application](#)**

The [Warren Tech](#) 2019-20 application is up and running. The online application [Apply Now](#) button can be found under the Admissions tab on the opening page of the Warren Tech website.

If you have questions about the online application, contact [Dena Coates](#), 303-982-5614 or [Leslee Hampel](#), 303-982-8603.

## **Educational**

### **[42nd Annual CAGT Conference – Oct. 21-22](#)**

Mark your calendars for the Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented 42nd Annual Conference: *A Gifted State of Mind*, Oct. 21-22 at the Embassy Suites Loveland.

### **[Davidson Academy 2019-2020 Online – Application Deadline March 31](#)**

The Davidson Academy is the only school designed specifically for profoundly gifted students with classes grouped by ability, not age. The online, accredited option leverages technology to create a new, highly personalized model of online education. Open to students who live anywhere in the United States, this accredited online option builds off the framework put in place by the Davidson Academy's Reno day school. For questions, email [online@davidsonacademy.unr.edu](mailto:online@davidsonacademy.unr.edu).

### **[Area College & Job Fairs](#)**

**[Mind/Shift](#)** How Self-Compassion Supports Academic Motivation

**[Dyslexia-Friendly Harry Potter Companion Books](#)** A new collection of Harry Potter companion books for readers with dyslexia and visual impairments is available from Bloomsburg Publishing

## **JAGC News**

### **[2019 JAGC Board Election](#)**

#### **SAVE THE DATE!**

In one week, all current JAGC paid members (as of 3/3/19) will be invited to vote in the annual JAGC Board of Directors Election. The election window will be from 3/23 to 4/6. A notice will be sent to you including a slate of candidates, bios introducing you to those members, instructions on how to cast your vote, and the official ballot. All ballots will be collected online. There will be no formal in-person voting or proxies. If you need assistance in casting an electronic vote, you may contact our [JAGC Vice President](#) and this year's election official, Danielle Hicks, for help.

### **[Gifted Support Group Littleton – March 22](#)**

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.

Friday, March 22

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Southwest Plaza Mall, Bowles and Wadsworth, main door entrance next to Bad Daddy's (entrance is on southwest side of mall between Dillard's and Macy's). Bring your lunch or buy it there.

Please [RSVP](#) by Monday, March 18 for this Gifted Support Group. If no RSVPs are received, the meeting will be cancelled.

The next, and last, Gifted Support Group of this school year will be Friday, April 19 (RSVP by April 15).

### **[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.

### **[New JAGC Website Resource](#)**

In case you missed it! Check out the new [Mental Health](#) page on our website. Included is a handout you can download of area mental health resources, links to posters and other print materials for your school or organization, crisis information, links to resources and more.

## Check out the [JAGC Calendar](#) for Detailed Information on the Following Events

Jurassic Quest – March 15-17  
Colorado Books and Arts Festival – March 16  
CU Wizards: Electricity and Magnetism – March 16  
Gifted Guild Gathering – March 16  
LEGO Building Workshops – March 16  
Society of Women Engineers Design Lab – March 16  
Wings Aerospace Academy Information Night – March 19  
PEN(Parent Engagement Network): Raising Resilient Girls – March 19  
SENGinar: Gifted + School = The Flexibility Mantra – March 21  
Gifted Support Group Littleton – March 22  
Boulder Arts Week – March 29-April 6  
JAGC Board Meeting – April 4  
PEN: Preparing Your Students Financially for College – April 4  
Tattered Cover Family Fun Night – April 6  
Jeffco GT CogAT 7 / ALP Parent Night - April 9  
DCAGT Program: Effective Advocacy – April 11  
Colorado Teen Literature Conference – April 13  
Gifted Development Center: First, Put on Your Oxygen Mask – April 13  
CU Wizards: One Fish... Two Fish... Fluorescent Red & Green Squish – April 20  
Denver Writes: World Building Workshop – April 20  
PEN: Natural Highs - Healthy Alternatives to Drugs & Alcohol – April 25  
Wrightslaw Special Education Law and Advocacy Training – April 25  
Tedx Dakota Ridge – April 27  
Wings Aerospace Academy Information Night – April 30

## Enrichment Corner

### [Introduce a Girl To Engineering Day 2019](#)

Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day is an event hosted by the Society of Women Engineers Section at CSU. The day is full of hands-on engineering activities, with lunch and snacks provided. A parent education panel is also held to give more insight on how to encourage young women in STEM. This year's event will be on March 30, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at Walter Scott, Jr. College of Engineering, Fort Collins, Colorado.

### [Johns Hopkins University Engineering Summer Program](#)

The semester-long course is condensed into four weeks and is made available to high school students in the summer. The course will be offered at Red Rocks Community College (RRCC), June 24-July 19.

### [Arvada Center Art of the State – Through March 31](#)

The Arvada Center's free "Art of the State" is a massive undertaking with 10,000 square feet of gallery space, loaded with 154 works by 133 artists who live in every corner of Colorado. The exhibit is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada, CO 80003. For more information, call 720-898-7200 or visit [arvadacenter.org](http://arvadacenter.org).

### **[Nature Obscura: An Immersive Art Experience – Through April 28](#)**

Natura Obscura is an immersive art experience at the Museum of Outdoor Arts that's like stepping into your favorite painting but where you can hear, smell, touch, and explore everything around you. It's part art museum and part virtual reality experience. Tickets are \$10-25. At the Museum of Outdoor Arts, Englewood Civic Center Building, 2nd Floor, 1000 Englewood Parkway #2-230, Englewood, CO 80110.

### **[Wings Over the Rockies Engineering Experience Workshop – March 23-April 20](#)**

Ever wondered what you need to start a career as an engineer? Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum is hosting an engineering workshop that is geared toward educating current middle and high school students about the requirements, principles and opportunities afforded to engineers and scientists in all types of industries.

## **[Spring Activities](#)**

### **Arvada Center Spring Break Camp**

March 25-29

Spring break camp offerings include some of our most popular camps as well as a few with new twists for spring break fun.

### **Denver Art Museum Spring Break Camp**

March 16–31

All spring break activities are included in general admission, free for kids 18 and younger. The Print Studio, Create-n-Takes, and gallery games and activities are open every day. See special performances of the family-friendly play, Art Emergency at 11 a.m. every weekday during spring break.

### **Denver Museum of Nature and Science Spring Break Camp**

March 16-31

Science camps include science activities, crafts, games, and a chance to see IMAX and Planetarium shows. Visit our online ticketing store or call 303-370-6000 daily from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

### **Denver Zoo Spring Safari Camp**

March 25-29

Get to know the zoo animals that are featured in fairy tales. Explore critters from classic stories and get to know new versions as well. Programs are designed for pre-K through 3rd grade.

### **School of Mines**

March 25-29

The Academies for Young Minds program for grades 1-6 offers camps focused on biology, geology, chemistry, and robotics.

- Growing Up Ain't Easy: The Biology of Growth in Plants and Animals [March 25-29-Morning]
- Kitchen Chemistry: Weird and Wonderful Science [March 25-29-Afternoon]
- Rocky Mountain Geology [March 25-26-Full day]
- Rocking Robot Vehicle [March 28-29-Full day]

## [Summer Programs](#)

### **JAGC Summer Programs List**

Here is JAGC's list of summer programs that includes enrichment opportunities around the area. Some camps have not updated their websites with this year's information, so check back as the list will be updated. Happy summer planning!

### **Career Day for Girls - Transportation and Construction**

The HOYA Foundation started [Career Days for Girls™](#) to encourage more young women to pursue careers in transportation and construction. Why? Because only 8% of the construction workforce is women. That fact carries economic implications and substantial opportunities. Over one week, girls – ranging from eighth grade to 20 years old – make five stops to engage with women, ask questions and tour work sites. Each company puts together a day long insight into their company and into the industry. Deadline for applications is April 5, 2019.

### **CSU Global Business Academy – Application Deadline May 1**

The Global Business Academy is a two-week program for students in grades 9-11 from July 7-19 at CSU's Mountain Campus in Pingree Valley near Bellvue, CO. The Academy provides students with a taste of college life as they learn about entrepreneurship, decision making and negotiation, sustainable enterprise, personal financial literacy, ethics and more. Last year, the academy had 39 high school students from 14 countries immersed in the fundamentals of business, entrepreneurship, collaboration and innovation.

Applications will be accepted until May 1 but students are encouraged to apply early.

### **Student Opportunities**

Find a list of Gifted and Talented [Student Opportunities](#) from the Jeffco GT Department.

## **Scholarships**

### **Davidson Young Scholars Program – Applications Due First of Each Month**

The Davidson Young Scholars program provides free services designed to nurture and support profoundly gifted young people and their families, including talent development, educational advocacy, an online community and the Ambassadors program. Young Scholars can also access annual get-togethers, a summer camp for 8 to 12 year olds and challenging online middle school courses. Applications are due the first of each month.

[Reviews.com](#) has created a [Scholarship Search Platform](#).

## **Connect With JAGC**

### **Become a JAGC Member**

Membership in JAGC and CAGT (Colorado Gifted and Talented Association) runs concurrent to the school year. Both are valid from September until August of the following year. You must be a member to vote in the spring JAGC election. When you register, be sure to select Jeffco as your affiliate. [Join](#) today and support gifted education in Jeffco!



### **[Support JAGC With Amazon Smile](#)**

Shop on Amazon through Amazon Smile and a portion 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.

### **[Check Out JAGC on Facebook and Twitter](#)**

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 Facebook message to request group membership or email for more information. A big thank you to Susan Carter-Ruskell for sharing great content on JAGC's social media!

[JAGC Facebook](#)

[JAGC Twitter](#)

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