



JEFFERSON COUNTY ASSOCIATION  
FOR GIFTED CHILDREN

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*May 2020*

## NEWSLETTER

*Please check all activities for schedules and cancellations with events and timelines changing this spring and summer. The JAGC Newsletter will be taking the summer off but we are always here to support you! [info@jeffcogifted.org](mailto:info@jeffcogifted.org)*

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## JAGC NEWS

### [GT Champions Announced!](#)

It's that time of year when JAGC would like to recognize those gifted & talented champions who are making exemplary efforts for our GT learners. This year we are recognizing GT leaders in our district, including staff, teachers, and students, who have been working hard to present and provide the best learning practices for our gifted communities.

### ***Congratulations to the 2020 winners of the GT Champion award!***

#### WINNERS!

**Administrative:** Josh Shapiro, Principal, Foothills Elementary

**Teacher/Staff:** Andrea Pless, 5th Grade GT Teacher, Kyffin Elementary

**Student:** LC Dougherty, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, Columbine/Colorado Early College

[Click here](#) to see all of the nominees!

Congratulations from the JAGC Board of Directors

[Check JAGC's Facebook Page](#) for online learning resources, parent feedback and updates throughout the summer. Please give us your feedback and tell us how you're doing!

## JEFFCO GT DEPT UPDATES

### **Jeffco GT Dept. Update for Remote Learning**

During our online learning period we will continue to support schools, gifted learners and their families remotely. Your school's GT Resource Teacher (RT) will have regular office hours each day for as long as we are in this remote learning environment. Please see this list of [GT Resource Teacher office hours](#), during which you should get a more timely response from your RT. You may contact your GT RT at any time outside these hours as well, but it may take some time for the RT to respond. Please see here for a [list of the GT Resource Teachers by school](#) (each RT has 9-10 schools).

GT Center School students, family and staff should contact their GT Center school to find out the office hours of their GT Social-Emotional Learning Counselor (SELC). GT SELC contact info is available on the school's website. In many cases, the GT SELC is coordinating their availability with the other members of the school's social-emotional support staff.

We will continue working with schools to support Advanced Learning Plan (ALP) implementation, progress monitoring and goal completion for identified gifted learners this year. We will also continue to accept GT identification referrals, though we may not be able to make determinations until we have a complete body of evidence when normal operations resume.

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Please consider the following in supporting your gifted learner in a remote environment:

- **Social Emotional Considerations:** Some of our students may be very hesitant with change, struggle with lack of normalcy/schedule/predictability, get frustrated, become overwhelmed, have increased sensitivity (to words, sound, light, etc). Many gifted and twice-exceptional students may show some of these 'overexcitabilities' that can make remote learning more challenging. Encourage positivity and hope in relation to their current situation. See this article on [Helping Your Child Manage Stress Through Mindfulness](#) from the National Association for Gifted Children's (NAGC) Parenting for High Potential, as well as their guide to [Supporting Your Child During COVID-19](#).
- **Academic Considerations:**
  - If students are feeling like the pace of learning is too slow, encourage them to explore 'passion projects' related to the content where they can go deeper with learning related to their interests.
  - If students feel the format of learning is too challenging, encourage them to self-advocate with their teachers in a positive way. Remember, all of us are figuring our way through this new environment, teachers included. See this [Gifted Student Self-Advocacy Tip Sheet](#) from NAGC for ideas on this.
- For additional support and ideas for both academic and social-emotional considerations, reach out to your child's GT Resource Teacher during the office hours noted above.

### [GT Advocacy and Resilience Resources](#)

The GT Department's theme for the 2020-2021 school year will focus on: **ADVOCACY!** We have compiled resources to support students and parents over the summer months to set the stage for future learning.

[Student Advocacy](#)

[Parent Advocacy](#)

### [Online GT Courses for 2020/21 School Year](#)

Attention Families of Gifted Students:

As we finish out this school year and think about the hybrid model that will likely be in place next year, please remember that Jeffco offers middle school level online GT classes. Any students on ALPs who are NOT enrolled in a GT Center program may take up to 3 of their 7th or 8th grade academic courses through our [GT Online Academy](#). All courses are taught by GT Certified Teachers and are designed with the unique academic and social-emotional needs of gifted learners in mind. Students may take these classes while remaining enrolled at their neighborhood school.

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We have the following course offerings available for the 2020/21 school year:

- Language Arts (7th and 8th)
- Science (7th & 8th)
- Social Studies (7th & 8th)
- Math (Math 7/8 & Algebra 1)

We would encourage you to explore our [GT Online Academy](#) website where you may take virtual tours of our courses, find individual course descriptions, email individual teachers, connect to the registration page, and more!

### [SPARKS GT Summer Enrichment Cancelled](#)

The SPARKS Enrichment Program for Jeffco Gifted & Talented learners is cancelled for this summer. See the [GT website](#) for more info and updates.

## JEFFCO NEWS

### [Planning for Middle School? Check out Jeffco Virtual Academy's Online Gifted & Talented Classes](#)

In collaboration with Jeffco Gifted & Talented, Jeffco Virtual Academy offers full-year core courses for 7th and 8th grade that are developed and taught by certified GT teachers. Visit the [JVA website](#) for more information. Course information is [here](#).

## FOR PARENTS

### [Conscious Parenting During Remote Learning](#)

From JAGC's own Lisa Girard, this [presentation](#) focuses on some core tenets of Conscious Parenting and how to apply those to focus, motivation, and procrastination while teaching gifted/2E students in the "new normal" of remote learning.

### [Conversations With CAGT - Tuesdays in May](#)

CAGT is offering an online event series "Conversations with CAGT" streaming on Facebook Live Tuesdays at 5 pm. Each week will feature a different expert in gifted education on a current GT topic in a live video chat on CAGT's Facebook page with time for your questions. Submit questions in advance by noon of the Sunday before the event.

### [NAGC Free Webinars and Live Chats](#)

The National Association for Gifted Children is offering free webinars, live chats and podcasts online every week this spring.

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## [SENG Online Programs and Events](#)

SENG (Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted) offers online seminars, parent groups and online support groups. Check the website for upcoming programs and events.

## [Online Learning Help For Time Management and IEPs](#)

[Time Management: 5 Strategies for Students Learning Online](#)

[Translating IEP Goals to Home During COVID Using SEL Fundamentals](#)

## [My Future... Now What? Teen Talk Seminar](#)

The Gifted Development Center is offering for free on YouTube a pre-recorded seminar featuring GT experts Dr. Linda Silverman and Dr. Jim Delisle and a panel of gifted-identified high school juniors and seniors who discuss the challenges they are facing in a world dealing with a pandemic.

## [Area Summer Programs List on JAGC Website](#)

JAGC's list of area summer enrichment programs is available on our website with more than 20 new programs. **Check with individual camps for offerings and online options as schedules have changed.**

## [New Parent Group Forming in Jeffco](#)

Is your child atypical? Then this parent group is for you! This is an informal group for parents to share information and support each other. We are looking for parents in the Jeffco area who have elementary school aged children with developmental disabilities or disorders, behavioral or learning impairments, and "different" wiring. Your children may be, but are not required to be, on a 504 plan or an IEP. This group is open to parents of all children in the area, from any school or homeschool.

Meeting dates will be announced when we have an estimate of the number of people interested. If you would like to participate, contact Jen Manera at [Jenden0622@gmail.com](mailto:Jenden0622@gmail.com), 720-988-3239.

## [Parent Engagement Network's Parent Education Series](#)

Check out the Parent Engagement Network's [events page](#) for information on their Parent Education Series in the Boulder area. Topics include Executive Functioning, Developing Resiliency, Mindset Skills for Success, Meaningful Conversations and more. PEN also has a [podcast](#) with parenting topics.

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## **Recent Gifted Podcasts and Articles**

- [Parent Footprint podcast](#) “Children and Screens: How to Help Children Lead Healthy Lives in a Digital World” with Dr. Pamela Hurst-Della Pietra.
- Science Daily: [Praise, rather than punish](#) to see up to 30% greater focus in the classroom.
- Dr. Devon MacEachron: [“Questioning Conventional Wisdom in Parenting Part 6: Should you encourage straight A’s?”](#)

## **Movies About Twice Exceptional**

- 2e: Twice Exceptional - <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/2emovie>
- 2e2: Teaching the Twice Exceptional - <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/2e2movie>

## **TECA Online Parent Seminars**

The Twice Exceptional Children’s Advocacy (TECA) is hosting online parent seminars. This group is open to parents and guardians of all twice exceptional children and teens. See the [schedule online](#) for topics and dates.

## ***Gifted Newsletters and Blogs***

[Byrdseed Blog](#)

[Davidson Institute Newsletter](#)

[Denver Gifted Development Center Blog](#)

[Gifted Challenges](#)

[Gifted Guru](#)

[NAGC Gifted Blog](#)

[SENG Newsletter](#)

[TECA Blog](#)

[TiLT Parenting List of Schools for Differently Wired Students](#)

# **FOR STUDENTS**

## **Join the Colorado GT Student Board**

The Colorado GT Student Board has opened applications for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year. This is an opportunity for GT high school students to take part in and work with students from across the state to help unite the GT programs in Colorado. For questions, email [coloradogtsb@gmail.com](mailto:coloradogtsb@gmail.com). Applications are due July 18.

## **Denver Writes Moves Online**

We are running our online after school writing club every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 4:30-6:30 pm. All Denver Writers are invited to join as well as volunteers. We are working with our Summer Camp instructors to transition our planned camps to online versions and will start providing information soon. Volunteers interested in running an online camp or workshop please contact [Denver Writes](#).

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### [Yunasa West Camp for Gifted Youth Summer Applications Open - June 6-13](#)

Designed and led by eminent experts in the field of gifted youth, Yunasa embraces gifted children for who they are, helping them understand and work with the unique joys and challenges that gifted children face. Many traditional programs for gifted youth focus solely on intellectual abilities, overlooking the need for these children to grow in all aspects of their lives. Yunasa supports the whole gifted child, encouraging growth and support of campers intellectually, socially, emotionally, spiritually, and physically. Camp is at YMCA Camp Shady Deckers, CO. [Download the Yunsa brochure.](#)

### [Youth Journalism Day - June 25](#)

This is a one-day, intense and fun learning experience for kids ages 8 to 14 at Metropolitan State University of Denver. It's an opportunity for budding journalists, writers and photographers to spend the day with professionals. Students will post their work on our youth journalism website. The best articles will be published in the Colorado Kids section of the Tuesday Denver Post. Youth J-Day participants can also continue as a Colorado Kids youth reporter for the next school year.

### [Denver Writes Seeks Youth Contributors](#)

Denver Writes' literary magazine, Backspace, is looking for fresh, innovative and creative writing that challenges the status quo and shows insightful understanding of the world. The magazine showcases Denver's best young writers aged 10-18 and provides a space for young writers to be published in print.

Backspace is also looking for teens ages 12-18 interested in helping compile, edit, organize and design the literary magazine. If you are interested, email [backspace@denverwrites.org](mailto:backspace@denverwrites.org) with the subject line of "Get Involved." See the [website](#) for details.

## **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.

### [NAVIANCE scholarships](#)

### [Denver Foundation Scholarships](#)

### [25 Great Scholarships for Gifted Students](#)

### [Reviews.com Scholarship Search Platform](#)

## **Student Opportunities**

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

### [Front Range Community College Pathways Career Exploration Days](#)

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## ***College Prep***

[List of Colleges Accepting 2020 AP Credit](#)

[Area College & Job Fairs](#)

[College Application Deadlines](#)

# EVENTS CALENDAR

**NOTE: Most events in the Denver area for May are cancelled. Please check individual events for rescheduling.** Check out the [JAGC Calendar](#) for detailed information on weekly and special events for gifted students, parents, and families.

## JOIN JAGC!

[Become a JAGC Member and Help Advocate for Gifted Kids](#)

Membership in JAGC and CAGT runs concurrent to the school year, valid from September until August of the following year. When you register, be sure to select Jeffco as your affiliate. [Join](#) today and help us advocate for advanced learners!

[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](#)

Did you know that [JAGC](#) is on Facebook? Follow us to stay up-to-date with gifted and Jeffco Schools information.

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 in this newsletter.