



JEFFERSON COUNTY ASSOCIATION
FOR GIFTED CHILDREN

October 2019

NEWSLETTER



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JEFFCO SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE FORUM

----> **Focus on GT** <----

Monday, Sept. 30, 6-8 PM
Wheat Ridge High School

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JAGC NEWS

JAGC Hosts School Board Candidate Forum - Sept. 30

Jefferson County Association for Gifted Children is hosting a public forum for Jefferson County school board candidates on Monday, Sept. 30. The event is from 6-8 p.m. at Wheat Ridge High School, 9505 W. 32nd Ave., Wheat Ridge, CO 80033. The forum will focus on gifted and talented (GT) education including mental health, funding and equity. For more information, contact [JAGC](#) or email JAGC president [Guy Nahmiach](#).

JEFFCO GT DEPT UPDATES

[Did You Miss the GT Information Night?](#)

Here is a [presentation](#) from the GT Department that was presented during the event. For more information or questions, contact the [GT Dept.](#)

[Jeffco GT Dept Fall Center Application is Available - Deadline Oct. 14](#)

The 2019 GT Fall Center Application is open through Oct. 14 at 4 p.m. This application is for students testing for the 2020-2021 school year. All GT Center testing has been completed for the 2019-2020 school year. There is only ONE application window.

Students who are ONLY seeking GT identification for an Advanced Learning Plan (ALP) and who are planning to remain at their current neighborhood, option, or charter school, and NOT planning to attend a GT Center school should complete this [application](#). The ID process could take several weeks to complete. Parents will be notified via email regarding GT identification and/or the creation of an ALP.

Moving to a GT Center Middle School? Here's What You Need to Know

If your student is in a Gifted & Talented Center elementary school and wants to continue on to a GT Center middle school, they will be offered a spot in their GT feeder middle school.

If your student is not in a GT Center school (currently enrolled in a neighborhood school, charter, or other school), you will need to apply for Middle School Center placement.

Applications are due Oct. 14. If your student's gifted testing (usually the CogAT from 2nd grade) is over two years old, they will have to test again through the GT Center application process.

School Interest Nights (Showcases)

[School Interest Nights](#) are events where schools showcase their instructional programs and explain enrollment procedures. These Interest Nights are typically held late October through February, but can be anytime. If you are interested in certain schools, be sure to check the schools' websites for showcase days and times.

[Understanding Your Student's CogAT Data – Dec. 11 & 17](#)

If your child took the CogAT (this includes all district 2nd graders), you should receive CogAT results in the mail around the first week of December. If you applied for Gifted & Talented Center placement, the decision emails will be sent to parents in early January. If your child was accepted into a Gifted & Talented Center, open houses and tours will be scheduled starting mid-January.

CogAT Parent Meetings

Wednesday, Dec. 11 and Tuesday, Dec. 17

6:30-8 p.m.

Jeffco Education Center, 1829 Denver West Drive, Bldg #27, Golden, CO 80401

[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 for 7th and 8th grade students. Classes are taught by certified GT teachers and offer the opportunity for middle school GT students to participate in an engaging online curriculum that incorporates both the academic and social-emotional needs of gifted students.

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](#).

FOR PARENTS

[Annual CAGT Conference – Oct. 20-22, 2019](#)

Mark your calendars for the Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented 42nd Annual Conference: A Gifted State of Mind, Oct. 20-22 at the Embassy Suites Loveland.

[CAGT Family Institute - Monday, Oct. 21](#)

The Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented is hosting a Family Institute (formerly known as Parent Institute) on Oct. 21 from 6-9 p.m. at its 42nd Annual Conference "A Gifted State of Mind." This is a time for parents, guardians, grandparents and any adult interested in learning more about supporting their gifted children to hear international experts share their knowledge and answer questions.

[CAGT Leadership Forum - Tuesday, Oct. 22](#)

CAGT announces this year's Leadership Forum Keynote speaker is Dave Taylor from *Intuitive Stories*. Hear him address "*Modern Students: How to Compete with the Digital World*." Dave Taylor has been involved with education and the digital world for decades. An entrepreneur, he's written 22 books, has a Masters in Education and, more to the point, three children, 22, 19, and 15. A member of the Silver Creek Educational Foundation (St. Vrain Valley School District) he's been involved in public school, private school and online high school and college education.

CDE PEP Conferences

PEP (Parents Encouraging Parents) Conferences are free events designed to promote family and school partnerships that are essential in supporting students with disabilities and their families in schools and the community. PEP brings parents and professionals together by sharing ideas, discussing concerns, celebrating successes and obtaining information related to parenting, educating and partnering to support student learning.

2019-2020 PEP dates:

October 10-12, 2019 - Fort Collins, CO

January 23-25, 2020 - Colorado Springs, CO

April 2-4, 2020 - Grand Junction, CO

To learn more about PEP Conferences and to register, [click here](#).

For more information, contact CDE-ESSU-PEP, Joyce Thiessen-Barrett, 303-866-6757.

Solutions for Smart but Struggling Students

Bright & Quirky presents a masters series to overcome obstacles and unwrap your child's gifts. Register and find more information [here](#) for Parts 3-5 in October.

Part 3: October 2 at 10am to October 3 at 10pm, Seattle time

Part 4: October 9 at 10am to October 10 at 10pm, Seattle time

Part 5: October 16 at 10am to October 17 at 10pm, Seattle time

2e Support Group Meets Saturdays

A support group for parents of twice-exceptional (2e) youth meets on alternating Saturdays, facilitated by Bev S. Weiler, LPCC, NCC. The group is free and donations will be accepted to offset the cost of the space and snacks.

Sessions will incorporate guest speakers as needed, and will cover topics such as executive functioning, IEP/ALP/504 process, social-emotional strategies, and whatever other topics the group decides on. It is hoped that these meetings will also provide a healthy and safe place for parents to connect with others who are living with similar challenges.

Meet at the Gifted Development Center, 8120 Sheridan Boulevard C-111, Westminster, CO 80003. For more information, contact [Bev](#) or 720-635-1915.

TECA Fall Online Parent Seminars

The Twice Exceptional Children's Advocacy (TECA) is hosting online parent seminars this fall. Led by TECA President Melissa Sornik, LCSW and co-facilitated by TECA Executive Director Maratea Cantarella, this topic driven group offers family members the chance to learn and share strategies for parenting our uniquely gifted 2e kids. This group is open to parents and guardians of all twice exceptional children and teens. See the [schedule online](#) for topics and dates.

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

Check out the Parent Engagement Network's [events page](#) for information on their Parent Education Series. Topics include Executive Functioning, Developing Resiliency, Mindset Skills for Success, Meaningful Conversations, and more.

[Center for Bright Kids Western Academic Talent Search \(WATS\) Testing for Gifted Students in Grades 3-9](#)

The [Center for Bright Kids](#) (CBK) is the regional talent center in the Rocky Mountain area, serving seven states, provides summer and other youth programs. The goal of CBK is to offer K-12 enrichment and acceleration programming for high interest and high ability kids.

Testing runs from October-Feb. If your child has an Advanced Learning Plan (ALP), you will need to contact the Jeffco Gifted & Talented Department to receive the Jeffco GT Eligibility letter for WATS testing. Once they verify a student's GT status, they will send the letter to you electronically. Your child can qualify to test in other ways. If you allow results to be reported to your school district, at least in Jeffco, they will become part of your child's ALP, further aiding your child's teachers in challenging them academically.

In addition to their youth programs, CBK also offers testing without ceilings, provided by the Western Academic Talent Search (WATS). The benefit of this testing is to find a child's true potential in reading, English, math, and science at the given time they take the test. Typical assessments used by school districts only test one or two grades up, not demonstrating some children's true potential in a subject. WATS testing goes far beyond one or two grades. WATS uses ACT, SAT, and PSAT 8/9 tests. PSAT 8/9 is used for grades 3-6, while ACT and SAT are used for grades 6-9.

FOR STUDENTS

[Colorado College FREE Application Day - Oct. 15](#)

For the second year in a row, the Colorado Department of Higher Education has teamed up with colleges and universities all across the state of Colorado to waive college application fees for all Colorado students on Tuesday, October 15. That means if you submit your application between 12:01 a.m. and 11:59 p.m. that day, you can apply for free to any public Colorado institution and many private institutions.

[Free School of Mines Petroleum Engineering Class](#)

High school juniors and seniors who are interested in taking a FREE class at Colorado School of Mines (PEGN102: Introduction to Petroleum Industry) can apply for the [Petro@Mines](#) program. The application deadline is November 1. Questions and applications can be sent to [Terri Snyder](#).

Name the Rover Challenge

If you are a K-12 student in the United States, your challenge is to name NASA's next Mars rover. Submit your rover name and a short essay (maximum 150 words) to explain the reasons for your selected name. The Mars 2020 rover will seek signs of past microbial life, collect surface samples as the first leg of a potential Mars Sample Return campaign, and test technologies to produce oxygen from the Martian atmosphere to prepare for future human missions.

STEMblazers - Inspiring Girls in STEM

Stemblazers inspires girls to visualize themselves in science, technology, engineering, and math careers and empowers them to pursue STEM professions. We envision a world where women feel confident to pursue STEM careers and are equally represented in the STEM workforce.

Scholarships

National YoungArts Foundation Competition - Applications Due Oct. 11

National YoungArts Foundation is accepting applications for its annual competition in the visual, performing, design and literary arts for 15 to 18 year-old artists until October 11. YoungArts winners receive valuable support, including financial awards of up to \$10,000, master classes with renowned artists, and performance and exhibition opportunities.

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.

25 Great Scholarships for Gifted Students

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

Student Opportunities

Colorado Student Leaders Institute - Application Opens Oct. 31

Colorado Student Leaders Institute (COSLI) is a state-legislated, summer residential program on the University of Colorado Denver campus. For one month each summer, Colorado's best and brightest students, chosen from a competitive pool of applicants, live and study on campus, and earn three hours of college credit. Students choose one of two majors: International Social Studies or STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Math), and explore diverse topics through a lecture series by university professors and 3 hands-on projects--Colorado Social Problem Lab, Short-Term Business Lab, and National History Day.

COSLI students do not have to be formally designated as gifted and talented students, but they must demonstrate through their application that they meet the academic rigors that the program requires. At least 50% of our students must be eligible for free and reduced lunch and/or first generation college students.

[Academic Earth](#) (List of Free Online College Courses) provides a collection of over 750 free online college courses from the world's top universities. This is one of the few high caliber organizations that offer MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses). [MOOCs](#) provide students (and parents!) a wide variety of courses that can feed them intellectually as well as their career (eg. nano credentials). From just advancing your understanding of best practices in education, psychology, or American poetry, these classes are just a click away - and they are FREE!

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

[Area College & Job Fairs](#)

[College Application Deadlines](#)

EVENTS CALENDAR

Check out the [JAGC Calendar](#) for detailed information on the following events:

Jeffco School Board Candidate Forum - Focus on GT - Monday, Sept 30, 6-8pm
College Fair Out of State College Night - [Wednesday, October 2](#)
SENG Parent Book Study Central Group - [Wednesday, October 2](#)
Colorado Academy Lecture: The Stressed Years of Their Lives - [Thursday, October 3](#)
CU Preschool Mornings at the Museum - [Thursday, October 3](#)
College Fair Out of State College Night - [Thursday, October 3](#)
SENG Parent Book Study North Group - [Thursday, October 3](#)
College Fair In State & Out of State College Night - [Saturday, October 5](#)
Support Group for Parents of 2E Children - [Saturday, October 5](#)
Tattered Cover Family Fun Night - [Saturday, October 5](#)
Denver Astronomy Society Open House - [Saturday, October 5](#)
Dyslexia and Learning - [Tuesday, October 8](#)
SENG Parent Book Study South Group - [Tuesday, October 8](#)
CDE PEP Conference Fort Collins - [Thurs, October 10 through Sat, October 12](#)
CU Preschool Mornings at the Museum - [Thursday, October 10](#)
TEDx Islay Denver - [Saturday, October 12](#)
Denver Writes Workshop: Scary Stories - [Saturday, October 12](#)
Jeffco GT Center Applications DUE - Monday, October 14
FREE Colorado College Application Day - Tuesday, October 15
CU Preschool Mornings at the Museum - [Thursday, October 17](#)
JAGC Board Meeting at West Jeff Elementary - Thursday, October 17
Book Bar Children's Bookfest - [Saturday, October 19](#)
Support Group for Parents of 2E Children - [Saturday, October 19](#)
CAGT Conference: A Gifted State of Mind - [Sun, October 20 through Tues, October 22](#)
CAGT Family Institute - [Monday, October 21](#)
CO Academy Lecture: Importance of Social & Emotional Skill Building - [Thurs, Oct 24](#)
CU Preschool Mornings at the Museum - [Thursday, October 24](#)
Women in STEM Networking Social for High School Girls - [Friday, October 25](#)
Teen Book Con - [Saturday, October 26](#)
CO Academy Lecture: Reaching the Reluctant Reader - [Tuesday, October 29](#)
[CU Wizards](#) Whispers & Bangs! The Physics of Sound & Music - [Saturday, October 26](#)
Denver Writes Workshop: National Novel Writing Month - [Saturday, October 26](#)
CU Preschool Mornings at the Museum - [Thursday, October 31](#)

CU Wizards Chemistry of Bread Making - [Saturday, November 2](#)
Support Group for Parents of 2E Children - [Saturday, November 2](#)
Free Night at the Museums - [Saturday, November 2](#)
Denver Astronomy Society Open House - [Saturday, November 2](#)
Tattered Cover Family Fun Night - [Saturday, November 2](#)
Look ahead to more November events [here](#).

JOIN JAGC!

[Become a JAGC Member](#)

Are you a member of JAGC? The Jefferson County Association for Gifted Children (JAGC) is a nonprofit group providing leadership and support to families and educators of gifted young people in Jefferson County, Colorado. [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 next purchase.

[Check Out JAGC on Facebook](#)

Did you know that [JAGC](#) is on Facebook? You can follow us on Facebook and stay up-to-date with Gifted and Jeffco Schools related information in your Facebook feed.

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.