



JEFFERSON COUNTY ASSOCIATION
FOR GIFTED CHILDREN

Gifted & Talented Journey:

**The myths and realities of
raising GT kids to achieve
their potential**



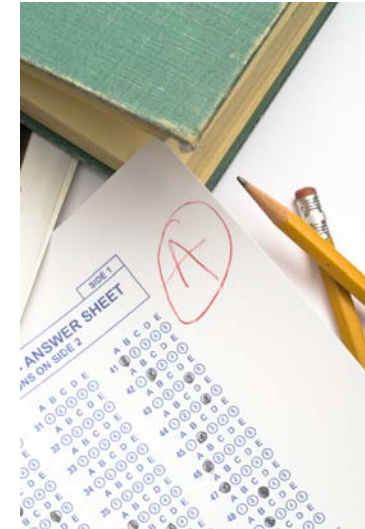
Presenters

- **Vicki Ray**
- **Kathee Jones**
- **Terri Taylor Straut**
- **Linnea Jones**



Agenda

- **What is JAGC?**
- **Who are the GT Kids?**
- **Myths & Realities**
- **Characteristics of GT Kids**
- **ID process in Jeffco**
- **Parenting GT Kids**
- **Learning Styles Affect Learning!**
- **Student Perspective**
- **Q & A**



Why We Need These Kids:

- **33% of US Jobs require Science or Technology competence;**
 - **17% US Students are Majors**
 - **52% Chinese graduates are Majors**
- **Number of students pursuing Engineering degrees declined by _ between 1992 and 2002.**
- **11% Bachelors Degrees in US are Science or Engineering**
 - **50% in China**
 - **23% World-wide**
- **Engineering Graduates: China 500,000/year; India 200K/year; US 70,000/year**
- **Less than 15% of US students have the prerequisites to pursue science or tech in college.**

All statistics listed are from: Davidson Institute for Talent Development National Statistics



Why We Need These Kids:

- **In 1970 US produced more than half of the world's Ph.D.s. But if patterns continue, it will be lucky to produce 15% of the world's doctorates by 2010.**
- **Today 45% of new US patents are granted to foreigners.**
- **4th Grade US scores above international average Math and Science; by 12th grade they score near the bottom of 29 countries surveyed.**
- **88% of high school dropouts had passing grades, but dropped out due to boredom.**
- **Up to 20% of high school dropouts test in the gifted range.**

All statistics listed are from: Davidson Institute for Talent Development National Statistics



Bright Child/Gifted Child

- **Knows the answers**
- **6-8 repetitions for mastery**
- **Top group**
- **Is interested**
- **Grasps the meaning**
- **Copies accurately**
- **Enjoys school**
- **Asks the questions**
- **1-2 repetitions**
- **Beyond the group**
- **Highly curious**
- **Draws inferences**
- **Creates new design**
- **Enjoys learning**



Common Characteristics of the Gifted

Good at problem-solving	Learns rapidly	Extensive vocabulary
Good memory	Longer attention span	Compassion for others
Perfectionism	High degree of energy	Prefers older companions
Wide or narrow range of interests	Unusual sense of humor	Early or avid reader
Insatiable curiosity & persistence	Intense concentration	May question authority
Advanced sense of conscience	May demonstrate intense emotional &/or physical sensitivity	Exhibits creativity
Ability with puzzles, #s	Perceives abstract ideas	Sees relationships

Source: [A Parent's Guide to Gifted Children](#). Devries and Webb, SENG. Scottsdale, AZ. 2007

Someone You Know?

- **Think about the smartest person you know**
 - **Family member**
 - **Colleague at work**
 - **Classmate from school**
- **How would you describe that person?**



GT Myth & Reality:

Myth:

- They don't need special resources
- They're smart; they're happy
- Learning is easy
- They'll succeed in school/life

Reality:

- Needs unique as Special Needs
- GT kids prone to depression
- Learn differently
- Drop Out/
Underachievement
- Suicide risk



Traits of Gifted Children



- **Exceptional Abilities, Talents**
- **Developmentally Advanced**
- **Intellectual**
- **Academic**
- **Visual Arts**
- **Performing Arts**
- **Leadership**
- **Creativity**



The Down Side of the Gifts

- **Excitability & Restlessness often misdiagnosed as Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)**
- **Asynchronous development challenges**
- **Many are Visual-Spatial Learners**
- **Friends are often not age-mates**
- **They feel alone and different**
- **Twice Exceptional (2X) Learning Disabilities, ADD, processing**



Why Identify?

- **Students need the support of similar peers**
- **Students need challenge to stay engaged**
- **Teachers need to understand how to meet their needs**
- **It's the law! HB07-1244 and the Exceptional Children's Act**
 - Require that administrative units program for, and be accountable for exceptional children including gifted and talented, limited English proficient, and Special Education.



GT Programming Options

Advanced Learning Plan (ALP)

(at Neighborhood School)

- **Differentiation is the model of instruction**
- **Flexible grouping**
 - **readiness, interests, and learning styles**

Center Placement

(small % of identified population)

- **Based primarily on accelerating curriculum-across all areas**
- **Academic based**



Jeffco Identification Process

Administer CogAT
and NNAT
and receive scores

For students who receive a 95th percentile or more,
Profile Form is created and seek at least two more
qualifying criteria (for a total of 3 pieces of data)

Parent Nomination

Teacher Nomination

Additional Data

When 3 qualifying criteria are collected,
an ALP is created



Center Application Dates

- **Sept. 15 West Jeff MS, 6:30-8:00**
- **Oct. 3 Deadlines for applications**
- **Nov. 6-15 Testing**
- **Jan. 09 Decision letters sent**
- **Jan. 09 Accept/Decline placement**
- **More Info:**
http://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/programs/gifted_talented/index.html



Parenting Gifted Children

- **Understand twice exceptionality**
- **Understand asynchronous development**
- **Enrich the school experience**
- **Feed their passion areas**



Parenting Gifted Children



- **Advocate when you need to**
- **Teach them to self-advocate**
- **Help them spend time with peers**
- **Ask them for solutions**
- **Think out-of-the-box!**



Support For Parents

- **Teacher**
- **Building Liaison**
- **Resource Consultant**
- **Other Parents--JAGC**
- **GT Web Site**
- **Journals**
- **JAGC www.jeffcogifted.org**
- **CAGT, NAGC**



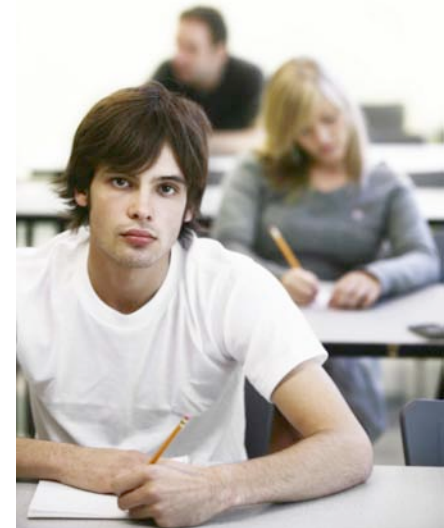
Upcoming Parent Events:

- **Sept. 30 Encouraging Achievement**
 - **See Flyer for details**
- **Oct. 13 CAGT Parent Institute**
 - **Coloradogifted.org**
- **Feb. 20, 2009 Beyond Giftedness Conference**
 - **Keynote: Jim Delisle**
- **JAGC Spring Session**



Dangers for Gifted Children

- **Underachievement**
- **Depression**
- **High Drop Out Rates**
- **Unfulfilled Potential**
- **Disenfranchisement**



Learning Styles Affect Learning!

- **Visual-Spatial v. Auditory-Sequential**
- **Differentiation is good teaching**
- **Honor all students' learning styles**
- **Training that addresses the needs of GT kids makes teachers more effective for all kids**
- **Strategies translate into all classrooms and home too!**
- **Understanding learning styles is critical**



Differentiation

It means teachers ***proactively*** plan varied approaches to ***what*** students need to learn, ***how*** they will learn it, and/or how they will ***show what they have learned*** in order to increase the likelihood that each student will learn as much as he or she can, as efficiently as possible.”

Carol Ann Tomlinson



What is an 'Average' Student?



Twice Exceptional \neq Average



Student Perspective

- **It can be hard to find a fit**
- **Flexibility is key**
- **Is It as Cheetah? by Stef Tolan**
 - http://www.stephanietolan.com/is_it_a_cheetah.htm



Questions & Answers



Important Websites:

- **Jeffco GT Website**

- http://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/programs/gifted_talented/**

- ***Parent Information***

- ***Student Links***

- ***Application Process & Forms***

- **JAGC Website <http://jeffcogifted.org>**

- ***Parent Information***

- ***Parent and Student Links***

- **Resources attached to the handout**



Contact Us:

- **Vicki Ray**
 - bvjs@comcast.net, 303-431-8054
- **Terri Straut**
 - Terri_Straut@msn.com, 720-252-9956
- **Kathee Jones**
 - GoldenMesa@comcast.net, 303-279-3210
- **We're happy to talk about GT kids from a parent's perspective at your school!**



Thank You!

**For Taking the Time to Learn
More About the GT Journey**

