

# Jefferson County Association for Gifted Children (JAGC)

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Boulder Country Day School Events (there are often Gifted topics)

Jeffco Public Library Kid Events

Douglas County Parent University Courses (there are often Gifted topics)

Davidson Institute Newsletters

Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG) Newsletters

Previously broadcast SENGINars can be purchased here.

JAGC GT [Ambassadors](#)

[How You Can Help JAGC](#)

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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 GT Parent Seminar - Understanding Your Student's CogAT Data - Jan 9, 2018

The next Jeffco GT Parent Seminar will explain the CogAT test and how to understand your child's report.

Understanding Your Student's CogAT Data

Tuesday, January 9, 2018 (make-up date in case of inclement weather is January 10, 2018)

6:30pm - 8:00pm

1829 Denver West Drive, Bldg #27

[Flyer](#) [En Espanol](#)

More information about this school year's Parent Seminars can be found [here](#). [En Espanol](#)  
Next Parent Seminars (typically held in the 5th Floor Board Room at 1829 Denver West Drive, Bldg #27, from 6:30pm to 8:00pm.)

January 29, 2018 Various GT Topics based on parent feedback [Flyer](#) [En Espanol](#)

February 26, 2018 Creating 21st Century Innovators Presented by Ian Byrd [Flyer](#) [En Espanol](#)

April 24, 2018 GT Share Fair - more information to come.

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### **In Case You Missed It - CAGT Conference Presentation Slides and Handouts**

Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented (CAGT) Conference - The Heart of the Rockies: Elevating the Gifted Connection - Presentation Slides and Handouts from this year and previous years are available [here](#).

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### **Gifted Support Group - Littleton November 17th**

Gifted Support Group - Littleton

Friday, November 17, 2017

Lunch bunch 11:30am - 1:00pm (feel free to bring your own lunch or buy something there)

Southwest Plaza Mall

Bowles & Wadsworth, Main door entrance next to Bad Daddy's (entrance is on southwest side of mall between Dillard's and Macy's)

Following meeting Friday, December 15, 2017.

The 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.

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### **If You Need Help Navigating the GT World, or Jeffco's GT Process**

Should you have questions or concerns you need help with, please join our [Facebook Group](#) (send a Friend Request) or [email](#) us. JAGC has a wealth of information for any stage of the path you are on.

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**Jeffco Summer SPARKS Camp - POSSIBLY EARLIER DATE**

This summer's SPARKS camp will likely be held earlier than usual due to scheduling conflicts with locations. The GT Department has been working hard over the last two months trying to find a centrally located school large enough and available for two weeks that isn't having construction or cleaning. The GT Department tried to find a location that would work for the normal dates in July, but it couldn't be worked out. We will keep you posted. Thank you for your patience.

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**School Interest Nights (Showcases)**

School Interest Nights are when schools showcase their instructional programs and explain enrollment procedures. These Interest Nights are typically held late October through February, but can be anytime. For a list of schools offering showcases, check [here](#).

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**Jeffco Gifted and Talented - Center School Spring Testing - Application Closes January 16th - Last Chance to Test This School Year**

Jeffco Gifted Center applications for spring testing for GT Center placement at a GT Center school or an Advanced Learning Plan (ALP) at the neighborhood/home school will be open October 16, 2017 through January 16, 2018. Jeffco offers free testing for applicants who are 5 years of age (or older) by October 1, 2017 and in kindergarten. These children are eligible to apply for the start of the 2018-19 school year. Find the online application and additional information [here](#). Testing will be Saturday, February 3, 2018, and takes approximately 2 hours. See the fall and spring 2017-2018 application process/timeline [here](#). [go to top of page](#)

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**Jeffco Early Access Testing for Entrance to Kindergarten or First Grade for the 2018-2019 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.”

Essentially, Early Access applies to children in the 98th 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 October 1, 2018 and for early entrance to first grade, a child must be 5 years old by October 1, 2018.

How to apply (the cost is \$250):

1. Fill out the online [application](#), which will open in January 2018 through sometime in March 2018.
2. Once the application is submitted, you will receive, in the mail, 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 will be due in March 2018.

4. Parents will be contacted to schedule Cognitive Testing (DAS-II - Differential Ability Scales). Testing is typically scheduled in late March or early April and takes approximately 2 hours.
5. If the child scores in the 98th 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 will be scheduled in early April 2018 and takes approximately 2 hours.
6. Notification of acceptance and non-acceptance is typically sent to parents late in April.

Part of the Early Access process is submitting a portfolio of evidence. This may include examples of art work, writing, photos or videos of things that have been built or auditions. It may be documentation of connections the child has made. It may be statements from preschool teachers. Any way you can show what were 'wow' moments for you. Things you noticed that seem advanced for a child of their age at the time.

If accepted, Jeffco has four elementary schools offering Early Access: Coronado, Hackberry Hill, Kendrick Lakes, and Parmalee. GT Early Access follows the Choice Enrollment process. Transportation is not provided to Early Access locations and is the responsibility of the parent.

Jeffco [web page](#) for Early Access.

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### **Jeffco News - Jeffco GT Gazette and ASD 101 Course for Jeffco Staff**

Jeffco [GT Gazette](#) October 2017 edition

Jeffco School District is offering a class for staff through Schoology called ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) 101. If you know someone on Jeffco's staff that you would like to learn more about Autism, encourage them to find the course in Schoology and take it! "ASD 101 is a class in Schoology that will prepare school teams in working with students who have autism in the general education setting. Any member/s of the team are welcome to take this class, including general education teachers. ASD 101 will have multiple strategies as well as resources to try right way. There will be a SPED coach to facilitate, who will be available to answer any questions and offer guidance as you try new strategies. If you want to learn even more, you can also take the ASD 201 class, coming soon!"

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### **Center for Bright Kids Western Academic Talent Search (WATS) - PSAT 8/9, SAT, ACT 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 7 states, providing summer programs and other youth programs. The goal of CBK is to "offer K-12 enrichment and acceleration programming for high interest and high ability kids. Our focus is not only on how kids think and learn, but how they discover ways to navigate the world while thinking and learning differently. CBK is focused on providing safe spaces for kids to laugh and play while being intellectually challenged with intensive academic experiences and actively engaged in meaningful, authentic learning experiences."

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 childrens' 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.

Testing is currently being offered. If your child has an ALP (Advanced Learning Plan) in Jeffco, you should have received a letter from the district allowing your child to test. Your child can qualify to test in other ways too if you are interested. 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 him or her academically.

Information about [WATS testing. Application.](#)

Information about CBK [youth programs.](#)

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### **Enrichment Corner - Academic Earth (List of Free Online College Courses)**

[Academic Earth](#) 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 On-line Courses). [MOOCs](#) provides parents (and students) 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, to psychology, or American poetry, these classes are just a click away - and they are FREE!

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### **Jack Kent Cooke Foundation 2018 College Scholarship Program **DEADLINE to Apply is November 14th 12noon****

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation College Scholarship Program is an undergraduate scholarship program available to high-achieving high school seniors with financial need who seek to attend and graduate from the nation's best four-year colleges and universities. Selected from a nationwide pool of applicants, up to 40 students will become Jack Kent Cooke Scholars and have access to funding for up to four years for undergraduate studies. Each award is intended to cover a significant share of the student's educational expenses – including tuition, living expenses, books and required fees. Awards vary by individual, based on the cost of tuition as well as other grants or scholarships he or she may receive.

This highly competitive scholarship includes:

- Up to \$40,000 per year to attend a four-year accredited undergraduate school
- Ability to pursue any area of study
- Personal advising about selecting a college and navigating financial aid
- Multifaceted advising about how to transition to college and maximize the college student experience

Find more information and application [here](#).

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## **Davidson Institute for Talent Development 2018 Davidson Fellows \$50,000, \$25,000 and \$10,000 Scholarships**

The Davidson Institute for Talent Development offers high-achieving young people across the country the opportunity to be named a 2018 Davidson Fellow, an honor accompanied by a \$50,000, \$25,000 or \$10,000 scholarship in recognition of a significant piece of work in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, Music, Literature, Philosophy or Outside the Box. Applicants must submit an original piece of work that is recognized as significant by experts in the field and that has the potential to make a positive contribution to society. The scholarship may be used at any accredited college or university. The deadline to apply is February 14, 2018.

Find more information and application [here](#).

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## **Colorado Student Leaders Institute (COSLI) Summer Program**

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 the 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 be first generation college students.

COSLI prepares students for college by fostering leadership, independence, innovativeness, initiative, critical thinking, and creativity.

Application deadline is January 31, 2018. Find information [here](#). Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Director of COSLI, [Celeste Archer](#) 720-891-0060.

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## **Davidson Young Scholars Program**

The national [Davidson Young Scholars](#) program provides FREE services designed to nurture the intellectual, social, emotional, and academic development of profoundly intelligent young people. Families can choose from a range of opportunities and services available exclusively to Young Scholars and their parents. Collaborate with a team of knowledgeable Family Consultants who provide individualized support based on each family's unique needs, in the areas of educational advocacy and planning, social and emotional development, and identifying opportunities to nurture the Young Scholar's talents and interests. Connect with other Young Scholar families online through a dynamic private website offering discussion forums, personal profiles, online seminars, and more! Meet other families in-person through parent-planned regional events or the annual conference-style event hosted by the Davidson Institute. Encourage your Young Scholar to participate in programs designed specifically for

them, such as online middle school courses taught by Davidson Academy faculty, the STARS summer program for 8 to 12 year olds, or the Ambassador Program, which fosters learning and civic engagement through community service, volunteerism and leadership. Apply for the Young Scholars program today! The application deadline is the first of each month.

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## **Mackintosh Academy Presents Michael Vladeck - "Raising Balanced Kids in the Digital Age" November 14th**

Mackintosh Academy Presents Parent Education: "Raising Balanced Kids in the Digital Age: How to raise grounded and self-aware children within the distractions and disruptions of the internet and digital media ...without power struggles" with speaker Michael Vladeck. In this insightful 2 hour presentation at Mackintosh Academy Littleton, Michael Vladeck will teach you how to parent in a way that will bring your children back into a place of balance and personal connection in the face of social media, gaming, and the countless disruptive exposures from the internet and technology. He will give you a science-based understanding of the actual impacts that excessive exposure to digital media can create. You will leave with very concise strategies and resources to support you in creating balance with cell phones, computers, and other digital devices.

Tuesday, November 14, 2017  
6:00pm - 8:00pm  
Mackintosh Academy  
7018 S Prince St, Littleton, CO  
Find more information and registration (\$15 to attend) [here](#).

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## **Adams 12 GT Parents Group Presents Terry Bradley, M.A. - Social and Emotional Aspects of Giftedness November 15th**

Adams 12 GT Parents Group Presents Social and Emotional Aspects of Giftedness. Terry Bradley will speak on how gifted kids not only think differently but also feel differently. Growing up gifted is a qualitatively different experience. As parents, it's important not only to be aware of their greater academic or creative capabilities, but also to be cognizant of their unique emotional capacities and complexities. This will be an opportunity to meet other families of gifted students to support and encourage one another.

Wednesday, November 15, 2017  
6:00pm - 7:30pm  
Adams 12 Educational Services Center  
1500 E 128th Ave, Thornton, CO  
Find more information [here](#).

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## **Boulder Valley Gifted & Talented Presents Linda Silverman, Ph.D - Counseling the Gifted November 16th**

Boulder Valley Gifted & Talented Presents Linda Silverman, Ph.D - Counseling the Gifted  
Gifted individuals often think and feel differently from their peers due to characteristics such as increased sensitivity, intensity, curiosity, perceptiveness, and perfectionism. Counseling is often needed to assist gifted children in dealing with their intense emotional lives and difficulties fitting in. Parents, educators, and mental health professionals are invited to come learn how to recognize and approach these issues.

Thursday, November 16, 2017  
6:30pm  
Douglass Elementary School  
840 N 75th St, Boulder, CO  
Free event. Find more information and a link to [register](#).

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### **SENGinars**

SENG (Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted) webinars (SENGinars) provide convenient access to many of the top experts in the gifted field discussing issues related to the social and emotional needs of the gifted. The webinars are designed expressly for parents, educators, and mental health professionals who work with gifted children. You will have an opportunity to ask questions at the end of each live webinar. Webinars are attended online from your own home and are \$40. Upcoming [SENGinars](#):

Born Digital: The 21st Century Social Norms Established by Millennials  
Presented by Dr. Kevin Besnoy  
Thursday, November 16, 2017  
5:30pm MST - 7:00pm MST  
Find more information [here](#).

Surviving the College Transition: A Gifted Undergraduate's Perspective  
Presented by Trent Cash  
Thursday, November 30, 2017  
5:30pm MST - 7:00pm MST  
Find more information [here](#).

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## **8th Annual Gifted Education Conference (Formerly IDGE) - Talented Voices: Diversity and Equity in Gifted Education February 7-8, 2018**

8th Annual [Gifted Education Conference](#) (Formerly IDGE) - Talented Voices: Diversity and Equity in Gifted Education

Policy Symposium: February 7, 2018 4:30pm - 7:00pm  
Conference: February 8, 2018 8:00am - 5:30pm  
University of Denver - Morgridge College of Education  
Katharine A. Ruffatto Hall  
1999 E. Evans Ave.  
Denver, CO 80210

[Tickets](#)

"Designed for teacher leaders, building and district leaders, parents, mental health professionals, and education service providers, the conference is intended to provide specific topical information about selected areas in gifted education. This year, we are planning another dynamic and informative Symposium and Conference that focuses on identification of and service to all gifted learners. Join us to learn strategies for recognizing talent, and tools for the development of programming and service models. Important policy issues and trends facing gifted education today will be highlighted and discussed during the Symposium. The Gifted Education Conference will join leading educators and researchers with participants to explore gifted education through an equity lens with a recognition of all gifted learners. Our 2018 speakers include Dina Brulles, PhD, Stephen Chou, PhD, and Judy Kiyama, PhD and the 2017 Palmarium Award winner James Webb, PhD!"

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### **Helpful Links**

[Boulder Country Day School Events](#) (there are often Gifted topics)  
[Jeffco Public Library](#) Kid Events  
[Douglas County Parent University](#) Courses (there are often Gifted topics)  
Davidson Institute [Newsletters](#)  
[SENG Newsletters](#)  
Previously broadcast SENGINars can be purchased [here](#).

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### **JAGC GT Ambassadors**

JAGC works in positive partnership with the Jeffco School District's Gifted & Talented Department to provide leadership by promoting information about the educational and social-emotional needs of gifted and talented (GT) students. JAGC's Ambassador Program extends this leadership from the district level into individual school buildings. JAGC Ambassadors are volunteers who receive training in how to serve GT students, parents, and staff at the articulation area and school building levels. If you are interested in volunteering as a family or community member to help JAGC locally support the local GT community, please think about advocating for Jeffco's GT students in this capacity. JAGC would like to have a GT Ambassador at ALL schools, so please let us know if you can help.

What's involved in being a GT Ambassador? Find out [here](#). Click [here](#) for additional information about this important role or [contact](#) the ambassador coordinator if you have any questions and/or to volunteer.

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## Call for Volunteers

### Are You a JAGC Member?

The Jefferson County Association for Gifted Children (JAGC) is a non-profit group providing leadership and support to families and educators of gifted young people in Jefferson County, Colorado. Membership in JAGC includes joint membership in [CAGT](#) (Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented). Combined dues are \$40 annually.

Although JAGC often works in partnership with Jeffco Public Schools' Office of Gifted and Talented, JAGC is a volunteer organization. JAGC provides its newsletter and seminars to everyone in the community but membership, donations, and volunteers are essential to providing these resources. Locally, through JAGC, your membership helps support things such as: seminars, presentations, and speakers; printed literature; this website (including the JAGC newsletter); JAGC on Facebook; local advocacy. Through CAGT, your membership helps support such things as: CAGT's annual conference, CAGT's annual Parent Institute, CAGT's website, monthly "Happenings" email, the quarterly Kaleidoscope e-newsletter, state level legislative advocacy for gifted learners, and online learning opportunities.

### Become a Member

Membership in JAGC and CAGT runs concurrent to the school year. Both are valid from September until August of the following year. Download a [JAGC Membership Form](#).

### Donate

Your contributions make a difference. 100% of your tax-deductible donation to JAGC will directly support distribution of information and GT advocacy in Jefferson County. Click here to download a [JAGC Donation Form](#).

**Amazon Smile** - Through Amazon Smile part 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.

### Volunteer

Your time and talents help JAGC run as a volunteer organization. We particularly would like to have at least one [JAGC GT Ambassador](#) at each school, to share information at the local level. Help in other areas is also welcome; [email](#) to volunteer your particular area of interest/skill.

### 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 FB message to request group membership or [email](#) for more information. A big thank you to Susan Carter-Ruskell for sharing great gifted content and managing JAGC's Facebook presence!

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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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