

October 2018 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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Learning Disabilities Web Sites

Online Tutoring Guide and Scholarship Search Platform Options

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Misdiagnosis and Dual Diagnosis of Gifted Children

ADD/ADHD vs Gifted Behavior

JAGC Needs YOU!

For Educators

Advanced Placement (AP) Changes for 2019

15 Tips for Improving Identification of Gifted English Language (EL) Students

CDE 2e (Twice Exceptional) Training

CDE Online Modules for Teachers: Addressing Needs of Gifted Learners

CAGT Conference Leadership Forum

Gifted Conferences

CAGT Conference

2 Days of 2e Virtual Conference

NAGC 65th Annual Convention

Gifted Education Conference & Policy Symposium

Jeffco Gifted & Talented Department Programs/Information

Jeffco Gifted & Talented Parent Seminar – Tom Clynes October 24, 2018

Author and photojournalist [Tom Clynes](#) travels the world covering the adventurous side of science and education for magazines such as National Geographic and Popular Science, where he's a contributing editor. He also writes and photographs for The New York Times, The Times of London, Nature, The Atlantic, and Scientific American. Tom is the author of three books, including, most recently, *The Boy Who Played With Fusion*, which tells the story of 14-year-old Taylor Wilson, who became the youngest person in history to build a working nuclear fusion reactor. Through Taylor's story, Tom explores the challenges facing gifted children and their parents and educators, as well as the increasingly important contributions of amateur scientists. What does it take to translate the raw material of exceptional intelligence into genius-level mastery and exceptional accomplishment? Why do only a tiny portion of would-be prodigies go on to become eminent, high-achieving adults? And how can we best help our children, whatever their gifts may be, develop their talents and reach their potential as creative, happy adults?

Wednesday, October 24, 2018

6:30pm - 8:00pm

Jeffco Education Center 5th Floor Board Room

1829 Denver West Drive, Bldg #27

[Flyer](#) [Español](#)

Next Parent Seminars (Jeffco Education Center 5th Floor Board Room 1829 Denver West Drive, Bldg #27 from 6:30pm – 8:00pm):

- Monday, January 28, 2019 – Topic to be determined
- Monday, February 25, 2019 – Topic to be determined

More information about this school year's Parent Seminars can be found [here](#). [En Español](#)
Previous GT Parent Seminar presentations can be found on [Jeffco's Parent Resources](#) page.

[Jeffco Gifted Center Applications](#) are open now and will **close at 4pm on October 15, 2018**. Jeffco offers free testing for applicants who are 5 years of age (or older) by October 1, 2018 and are enrolled in Kindergarten or above. These children are eligible to apply for the start of the 2019-20 school year. Find the online application and process described [here](#). Testing will be Saturday, October 27, 2018 or Saturday, November 3, 2018, and takes approximately 2 hours.

It is also possible to apply for consideration for an Advanced Learning Plan (ALP) to remain in your neighborhood school or a charter. Find the application [here](#).

Jeffco will only be conducting GT Center and ALP Testing in the fall – THERE WILL NOT BE A SPRING TESTING WINDOW!

Jeffco Gifted & Talented Department Useful Links:

[Jeffco's GT Department's web site](#) has a lot of helpful information. Some highlights:

[List of GT Resource Teachers and GT SEL Counselors by School and Contact Information](#)

GT Resource Teachers (RTs) are responsible for identifying gifted students in the schools they serve, initially setting up the Advanced Learning Plan (ALP), and working with teachers to make sure gifted students are receiving instruction for their academic needs.

GT SEL Counselors are assigned to GT Center Schools and work with the students in those Centers to ensure their social emotional needs are being met.

[Jeffco GT Gazette](#) for October 2018

[Reclassification of GT Identification Areas](#)

Colorado Department of Education (CDE) recently updated the categories for GT identification. For students identified prior to 2018, find out how the Advanced Learning Plan (ALP) strength/focus areas may have changed for your child.

[Parent Resources](#)

This page has information about upcoming Parent Seminars, as well as presentations from past seminars. Also find helpful links and past editions of the department's Gazette.

[Jeffco GT's Facebook Page](#) and [Twitter Account](#)

Jeffco's Mobile App

Get notifications on GT news and events on the Jeffco Schools mobile app, available for both iOS (Apple) and Android. Once the app is on your device, go to 'Settings: Schools', then scroll down to switch on 'Gifted & Talented'. You can also select your children's schools to receive notifications from them on the same app!

Educational/Job Opportunities

College Planning – Jeffco Virtual Academy put together this helpful [JVA College Planning Calendar 2018-2019](#) listing fairs and offering links for financial aid and testing information.

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.

Mackintosh Academy Littleton Open House

October 16, 2018 9:00am – 7018 S Prince St, Littleton, Colorado 80120

Mackintosh Academy is a private gifted school located in Littleton and Boulder. The Open House will provide campus tours of PK-8 and an opportunity to chat with the Assistant Head of School and Admissions Director.

Colorado School of Mines Intro to Petroleum Course

Colorado School of Mines is offering juniors and seniors interested in learning more about the Petroleum industry the opportunity to take a three credit hour Introduction to Petroleum class beginning in January 2019 at no cost to the student. Tuition and Fees will be covered by the department and a textbook will be provided for the semester. Students currently enrolled in or have completed at least Pre-Calculus, Chemistry and/or Physics, have a 3.5 unweighted GPA and have attended high school in Colorado since freshman year are eligible to apply.

Application Deadline October 31, 2018

Reviews.com has created two guides parents might find helpful:

[Online Tutoring Guide](#) – Including a section for special needs students

[Scholarship Search Platform](#) Options

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 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.

Testing is currently being offered. 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 necessary letter to you electronically. 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](#).

JAGC

Gifted Support Group - Littleton

Friday, October 26, 2018

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

Please RSVP by Monday, October 22nd for this Lunch Bunch. If no RSVP's are received, the meeting will be cancelled.

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.

The next Lunch Bunch will be Friday, November 30, 2018.

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.

For Parents

In Case You Missed It – September's Jeffco GT Parent Seminar Presentations:

[Meeting the Social/Emotional Needs of Gifted Kids](#)

[Gifted & Talented 101](#)

[Understanding the Advanced Learning Plan \(ALP\): Elementary/Secondary](#)

[Navigating Middle School . . . this time as a parent](#)

CAGT Conference Parent Institute October 22, 2018 – Loveland, CO

The annual Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented (CAGT) Conference offers a [Parent Institute](#) with prominent conference guest speakers. This is a time for parents, guardians, and educators interested in gifted children to come together to hear national and local experts share their knowledge and answer some of your questions.

Monday, October 22, 2018

7:00pm - 9:00pm (Registration opens at 6:30pm)

Embassy Suites Loveland, 4705 Clydesdale Parkway, Loveland, CO

\$20 per individual or for 2 family members.

Register [here](#).

Mackintosh Academy Presents "[Dr. Brian Wolff: Helping Your Child Learn to Cope with Anxiety](#)" Wednesday, October 24, 2018 6:00pm – 8:00pm at 7018 S Prince St, Littleton, Colorado 80120

Dr. Brian Wolff is the owner of Wolff Child Psychology and a Licensed Clinical Psychologist with specialized training in the evaluation of Autism Spectrum Disorders, Dyslexia and other learning disabilities, intellectual and executive functioning, developmental challenges, ADHD, anxiety, depression, and behavioral difficulties. His clinical work is grounded in evidence-based research and employs a primarily cognitive-behavioral approach to assessment and therapy.

Douglas County Association for Gifted and Talented (DCAGT) Program: "[Navigating the World of Giftedness](#)" October 30, 2018 6:30pm – 8:00pm at Highlands Ranch Library.

[Gifted Parent Academy](#) – The Jeffco GT Department is now offering four different online courses to help parents gain a deeper understanding of their gifted children and load up their tool boxes with effective strategies for greater success and well-being. Courses are open enrollment - start anytime and work at your own pace - and cost only \$35 per family. See the [website](#) for course descriptions, format information, and registration.

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:

- October 11, 2018 “Evolved Emotional Intelligence of Gifted Diverse Students in Distressed Communities” presented by Alonzo Kelly
- October 25, 2018 “Bring on the Cringe: Talking to Your Gifted Child about Sex Education” presented by Matt Zakreski
- November 8, 2018 “Smart is Not Easy: What Grit & Growth Mindset Really Mean for the Gifted Child” presented by Austina De Bonte
- November 15, 2018 “A Neuro-developmental Understanding of Twice-Exceptional Kids” presented by Beth Houskamp
- November 29, 2018 “Navigating Career Success: The Lifewide Learning Experiences of Successful Gifted Adults in Early Adulthood” presented by Joselyn Johnson

Extra-Curricular

The Tattered Cover Book Store [Colorado Teen Book Con](#) is a full day event exclusively for teens with two keynote presentations, a bunch of author panels, a special writing workshop, a special panel with local literary agents, and a big author signing party at the end of the day. Books will be available for purchase throughout the day. This event is free, open exclusively to teens, but you must register.

Saturday, November 3, 2018

8:30am - 5:00pm

Littleton High School (199 East Littleton Blvd, Littleton, CO 80121)

[Free Night at the Museums](#) – Saturday, November 3, 2018 from 5-10pm some of Denver’s best museums are open late and admission is FREE. There will be shuttle busses serving some of the museums and new museums have been added this year!

[School of Mines STEM Program for Girls](#) – After School programs on the Colorado School of Mines campus, DECtech is a Colorado School of Mines outreach program designed especially for girls! Program leaders are female Mines students who are both passionate about their subjects of study and sharing this passion with the next generation. Our mission is to engage girls in STEM by introducing them to various subjects with an interactive, engaging, and hands-on approach!

For over three decades, the **[CU Wizards](#)** program has presented FREE monthly shows that entertain and inform children about the wonders of science. Under the direction of Prof. David Nesbitt, these interactive shows are presented once a month from September through June. They are hosted by renowned University of Colorado, Boulder professors and provide a perfect

start to a fun-filled weekend. The shows are geared toward children and young adults, but all are welcome! Each program lasts about an hour and includes several lively demonstration experiments. Find [General Information](#) here.

[Girls in STEM](#) works to create numerous pathways for middle school and high school girls to explore various STEM industries and careers, in an effort to fill the pipeline and close the gender gap in tomorrow's workforce. In addition, we aim to provide information, guidance and support for potential scholarships and internships.

[Jeffco Writing Challenge](#) – Now a K-8 challenge and a High School Challenge. Submission deadline February 28, 2019

[Denver Writes](#) – Our mission is to provide young writers in the Denver area with a supportive community and creative opportunities to express themselves through writing. We achieve this by offering monthly workshops, intensive and expeditionary summer camps, and exciting special events.

[2019 Optimist Brain Bowl](#) – All Colorado and Wyoming public, private and home-schooled 6th, 7th and 8th grade students are invited to form teams and participate in the Optimist Brain Bowl!

The Jefferson County Library Foundation and Friends will hold their annual [Fall Whale of a Used Book Sale](#) Oct. 19-21 at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds (15200 W. 6th Ave., Golden). Hours are 9am - 5pm Friday and Saturday, Oct. 19-20, and 11am - 3pm Sunday, Oct. 21. Admission to the sale is free.

Resources - General

[Helping Gifted Kids Thrive: Insights From the Experts](#) A free e-book - Child & Family Therapist Tina Harlow interviewed 26 experts across the field of giftedness to ask them one question: "What one thing can parents do now to help their gifted child to thrive in the future?"

Homework Help:

Jefferson County Library [Elementary Homework Help](#)

Jefferson County Library [Teen Homework Help](#)

[Khan Academy](#) also offers homework help and test prep

[Prepdog](#) offers Common Core help by grade

Helpful Links:

[Byrdseed](#) - A website to better understand giftedness

Institute for Educational Advancement - [Scholarships and Competitions Guide](#) grades K-12

[Parent Engagement Network](#) Events

[Boulder Country Day School Events](#) (there are often gifted topics)

[Jefferson County 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](#)

Colorado Associate for Gifted and Talented (CAGT) past conference [handouts](#)

Resources – 2e (Twice-Exceptional: Gifted with a Disability)

JAGC 2e (Twice-Exceptional) Webpage

Are you wondering if your child is 2e (twice-exceptional: gifted with a disability like ADHD, Dyslexia, visual processing issues, etc)? Do you have a diagnosis for your child and know he/she is 2e? Check out JAGC's new [webpage](#) with resources to help you.

[Nunes: The Pros and Cons of Homeschooling a Child With Special Needs — and Some Resources That Can Help](#)

[LDOnline](#) - Lots of information on learning disabilities

[Understood.org](#) - A very helpful website for learning and attention issues

Parents, educators, advocates, and attorneys come to [Wrightslaw](#) for accurate, reliable information about special education law, education law, and advocacy for children with disabilities.

[Reviews.com](#) has created two guides parents might find helpful:

[Online Tutoring Guide](#) – Including a section for special needs students

[Scholarship Search Platform](#) Options

Resources - Articles

Misperceptions of Giftedness: Are You Struggling With What Those Around You Believe Gifted Is? This article provides some tools to communicate to parents, teachers, and school administrators, what gifted is and what gifted is NOT.

Misdiagnosis and Dual Diagnosis of Gifted Children by James T. Webb, Ph.D., ABPP-CI
Many gifted and talented children (and adults) are being misdiagnosed by psychologists and other health care professionals because specific social and emotional characteristics of gifted children are mistakenly assumed to be signs of pathology. Other children are gifted, but also have a coexisting disorder—a dual diagnosis—yet seldom is their giftedness considered in educational planning or treatment.

ADD/ADHD vs Gifted Behavior – See the similarities side by side.

JAGC Needs YOU!

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? Click [here](#) for additional information about this important role or [contact](#) the ambassador coordinator if you have any questions and/or to volunteer.

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. Become a member [here](#). Be sure to select Jeffco as your affiliate.

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!

For Educators

Advanced Placement (AP) Changes for 2019

New AP [Resources and Processes](#)

National Center for Research on Gifted Education at the University of Connecticut "[15 Tips for Improving Identification of Gifted English Language \(EL\) Students](#)"

CDE 2e (Twice Exceptional) Training

The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) Office of Gifted Education is offering two 2e (twice exceptional – gifted with a disability) training opportunities for educators who want to learn more about gifted students with disabilities, including: gifted educators, general educators, special educators, counselors, psychologists, social workers, specialized service providers, and administrators. Teams from your district, school, or BOCES are welcome to take the course together. Each level is eligible to earn one (1.0) graduate credit hour or 15 relicensure hours.

Level 1 (7-week online class):

Session One: Opens September 10, 2018 and closes October 27, 2018

Session Two: Opens January 7, 2019 and closes February 23, 2019

Session Three: Opens March 11, 2019 and closes April 27, 2019

Find information and registration [here](#).

Level 2 (two format options – 4 weeks online and 1 day in person or a 2-day workshop):

Blended Online Session One: September 10 – October 12, 2018 online and In-person day

In-person: November 30 & December 1, 2018

Blended Online Session Two: March 11 – April 26, 2019 online and In-person day or ZOOM

Find information and registration [here](#).

CDE Online Modules for Teachers: Addressing Needs of Gifted Learners

Colorado Department of Education Office of Gifted Education offers a variety of online courses for teachers. Among the choices are:

- Gifted Learner
- Differentiating for Gifted Learners – Elementary
- Raising Thinking Skills
- Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Gifted Learners **NEW**
- Addressing the Social Emotional Needs of Gifted Learners
- Depth & Complexity Framework
- Differentiating for Gifted Learners – Secondary Level
- Developing Mathematical Thinking in Gifted Learners
- Reading for the Gifted Learner
- Creativity for the Gifted Learner

Online Modules [catalog](#) and [schedule](#).

CAGT Conference Leadership Forum October 23, 2018 – Loveland, CO

This professional event is co-sponsored with the Colorado Department of Education and will be held Tuesday morning, October 23, 2018. Leadership Forum is an extended session inviting leaders in education to engage in conversation on important issues facing gifted education. It is also time for district teams to gather for collegial discussion during the conference. This year's Leadership Forum guest speaker is Bryan Goodwin, CEO of McREL International, presenting "Flip the Switch with Student Curiosity". We encourage administrators, coordinators, directors and GT leaders throughout the state to attend this informative and inspiring event.

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

7:30am – 10:45am

Embassy Suites Loveland, 4705 Clydesdale Parkway, Loveland, CO

\$25

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

Gifted Conferences

CAGT Conference October 22-23, 2018 - Loveland, CO

Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented (CAGT) Conference - Putting the Pieces Together: Understanding Giftedness. Keynote speakers [Temple Grandin](#) & [Tom Clynes](#). Find all the information you need [here](#).

Monday, October 22 - Tuesday, October 23, 2018

7:00am – 4:30pm

Embassy Suites Loveland, 4705 Clydesdale Parkway, Loveland, CO
Find more information and registration [here](#).

2 Days of 2e Virtual Conference October 26-27, 2018

2 Days of 2e Virtual Conference is for parents, educators, and clinicians, to help bring out the best and raise self-esteem in 2e learners (gifted with a learning difference). 12 renowned experts and innovators discuss topics from (Mis)identification, anxiety, and perfectionism, to underachievement and advocacy. Participants learn how to use research-based tools for their home, classroom or clinical office. Contact hours are available through the University of Connecticut.

Presented live October 26-27, 2018, but available on-demand through April 2019.
Find more information [here](#).

NAGC 65th Annual Convention November 15th-18th, 2018 Minneapolis, MN

National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) will have their annual convention and exhibition in Minneapolis, MN this year. This is the largest convention devoted to gifted and talented learners. Find more information [here](#).

Gifted Education Conference & Policy Symposium February 6-7, 2019 University of Denver

The 9th Annual Gifted Education Conference – Theory and Practice: Conceptual Foundations and Classroom Strategies in Gifted Education is designed for teacher leaders, building and district leaders, researchers, parents, mental health professionals, and education service providers. The conference is intended to provide specific topical information about selected areas in gifted education, focusing on both leading edge research advances and practical classroom strategies. Important policy issues and trends facing gifted education today will be highlighted and discussed during the Symposium.

Wednesday, February 6 – Thursday, February 7, 2019

University of Denver Campus

Find more information [here](#), which will be updated in the coming months.

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