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Colorado Department of Education - Gifted Education Tuesdays ([G.E.T.](#))

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

[Beyond Giftedness](#) Conference and Parent Mini-Conference Friday, Feb 23, 2018

Gifted Development Center Presents [Gifted Women Symposium](#) June 2, 2018

[Helpful Links](#)

Understood.com - A very helpful website for learning and attention issues

Byrdseed - A website to help you better understand giftedness

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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## JAGC's New Website Is Here!

JAGC has a new website! Please check it out at <http://www.jeffcogifted.org/>. Let us know what you think of it by [emailing](#) us.

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## Jeffco GT Parent Seminar - Various GT Topics - January 29, 2018

The next Jeffco GT Parent Seminar will have four breakout sessions to choose from:

- Social Emotional Coping Strategies/Perfectionism - Board Room
- GT Supports for Parents - Room 3A
- Advocating for your Advanced Learner: Building a Partnership Using Effective Communication Strategies with Classroom Teachers - Room 3B
- Early Access - Room 2A

Monday, January 29, 2018  
6:30pm - 8:00pm  
1829 Denver West Drive, Bldg #27  
[Flyer](#) [En Español](#)

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

February 26, 2018 [Creating 21st Century Innovators Presented by Ian Byrd](#) [Flyer Español](#)  
April 24, 2018 GT Share Fair - more information to come.

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## Gifted Support Group - Littleton January 26th

Gifted Support Group - Littleton  
Friday, January 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)

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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## How to Advocate for Your Gifted Child and Interpreting MAP Data

Please see an article JAGC President, Susan Miller, wrote to help parents advocate for their gifted child. [How to Advocate for Your Gifted Child - Updated 2017](#).

MAP Assessments - Hopefully you received your child's MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessment scores at the parent teacher conferences in October. Parents may have gotten varied detail on their child's MAP scores. Depending on your child's grade, different MAP tests were given. To help you understand the assessment:

- [Jeffco MAP FAQs](#)
- [MAP Quick Reference](#)
- [Normative Data](#) (Score Ranges) 2015 (latest) - Page 3 has the actual score ranges.
- MAP to Predicted ACT scores (if students stay on track) [one pager](#) and [full study](#) (page 12 has the ACT predictions).
- [Parent Brochure for MAP](#) - Aiken County Public Schools in South Carolina put together a nice brochure for parents.

To help your child strengthen weak areas, [Prepdog.org](#) has some help.

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## Jeffco Summer SPARKS Camp - Date: June 18 - 29, 2018

Jeffco Summer SPARKS GT Camp  
Dates: June 18-29, 2018  
Location: Golden High School

Registration Opens on February 1, 2018 and closes March 30, 2018 at 4 pm.  
Find information, course descriptions, and schedule [here](#).

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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](#).

North Arvada Middle School Showcase with Presentation about their GT Center  
Wednesday, January 24, 2018  
5:30pm - 7:30pm  
7285 Pierce St, Arvada

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## Stevens GT Center - Meet Stevens Elementary Principal and GT Resource Teacher

This year the Steven's GT Center has been transforming. Resource Teacher Jennifer Mulhern and Principal TJ McManus have been working hard with the GT teachers to provide the students what they need to grow and thrive.

Read a [Letter](#) from Stevens Elementary School's new Principal TJ McManus  
Read an interview with Jennifer Mulhern, Stevens Elementary's Resource Teacher [What is a Gifted Resource Teacher \(RT\)?](#)

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## Jeffco GT - 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 at 4pm. 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](#).

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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 97th 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 is open now through April 1, 2018
2. Once the application is submitted, you will receive 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 by March 23, 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 97th 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 Gifted & Talented Department Gazette**

The Jeffco Gifted & Talented Department December Gazette can be seen [here](#) ([Español](#)).

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## **Colorado School of Mines - Discovering Technology for Girls in 3rd-8th Grade Start in January**

Colorado School of Mines: STEM for girls - This after school enrichment is an opportunity for girls to be exposed to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) topics in a college setting, all taught by women. 3rd-4th graders start the week of January 29th, and 5th-6th graders start the week of February 5th. 7th-9th graders start the week of January 31st.

[Information for grades 3-6](#)

[Information for grades 7-9](#)

More information on the CSM K-12 programs [here](#).

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## Enrichment Corner - GT Book List, AwesomeMath, and Art of Problem Solving Academy

[What's New in Young Adult Literature: 2017 Edition](#) - Dr. Bob Seney has a wonderful list of books for gifted children.

[AwesomeMath](#) - Devoted to providing enriching experiences in mathematics for intellectually curious learners. Through summer camps, publications, curriculum, and competitions AwesomeMath fosters a community that values critical thinking, creativity, passionate problem solving, and lifetime mathematical learning.

[Art of Problem Solving Academy](#) - Art of Problem Solving textbooks have been used by outstanding students since 1993. The AoPS website launched in 2003, and its online community now has over 300,000 members. Many of the winners of each year's International Math Olympiad use the AoPS site as a primary training resource. The AoPS online school has over 15,000 enrollments annually in courses specifically designed for high-performing math students. Most of the winners of major American national math competitions are AoPS alumni, and thousands of our alumni enroll in top universities each year. Campuses in California, Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia.

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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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## **Mackintosh Academy Littleton - Taste of the Apple January 25th**

Taste of the Apple: Experience Mack & Annual Meeting: Prospective and current families are invited to enjoy the Mackintosh experience and participate in teacher-guided inquiry. Find out why Mackintosh truly offers the whole apple, preparing children for a world yet to be imagined. Visit our award-winning school and meet parent, teacher and student ambassadors to learn more about our IB programming for gifted and creative learners. Our Head of School and Board will speak on the "state of the school." [RSVP](#) required to Beth Steklac.

Mackintosh Academy Taste of the Apple  
Thursday, January 25, 2018  
5:30pm - 8:00pm  
Mackintosh Academy  
7018 S. Prince St., Littleton

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## **CAGT Legislative Day - Thursday, February 22, 2018**

Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented (CAGT) will be hosting their annual [Legislative Day](#) on Thursday, February 22, 2018. This event allows students (grades 8-12) a unique opportunity to shadow a state legislator for the day. There is also an adult component to the day, where gifted advocates have an opportunity to learn about current legislative initiatives that affect our gifted children. Registration now open.

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## **Rocky Mountain STEAM Fest 2018 March 3rd & 4th, 2018**

"We are celebrating all things creative, imaginative and exploratory at a festival extraordinaire... It's Science, Technology, Entrepreneurship (invention!), Arts and Making. STEAM Fest is an awe-filled, jaw-dropping chance to tinker, hack, build, crumble, fly, drive, drink, DO, dabble - PLAY!"

Saturday, March 3rd and Sunday, March 4th, 2018  
10:00am-5:00pm both days  
Boulder County Fairgrounds  
9595 Nelson Road, Longmont  
More information [here](#).

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## **BVGT Presents Supporting Gifted Children in Early Childhood Settings with Catherine Zakoian March 6, 2018**

Early Childhood Educators join Boulder Valley Gifted and Talented (BVGT) in collaboration with the Early Childhood Council of Boulder County to better understand what giftedness looks like in very young children.

Learn how to best recognize and prepare to support these youngsters and their families, leading to wonderfully deep teaching relationships and enriched and happy classroom environments. Participants will leave with a basic understanding of giftedness and concrete tools to support gifted children in their classrooms.

Tuesday, March 6, 2018  
6:00pm - 8:30pm  
Aspinwall @ Josephine Commons, Community Building  
771 Excelsior Place Lafayette, CO 80026  
Cost: Free  
Training credit hours: 2.5 Clock Hours  
Registration and information [here](#). Registration required by February 19.  
Space is limited, so register early.

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## **Colorado Teen Literature Conference - Saturday, April 14, 2018 Denver, CO**

Keynote authors Simone Elkeles and Raúl the Third.

Saturday, April 14, 2018  
7:30am - 4:00pm  
Tivoli Center on Auraria Campus, Denver

Registration will open February 5th. Find more information [here](#).



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## **Colorado Department of Education - Gifted Education Tuesdays (G.E.T.)**

Gifted Education Tuesdays (G.E.T.) are interactive webinars on selected Tuesdays from 3:30pm-5:00pm MST. This school year's remaining webinars are:

February 6, 2018: Rtl (Response to Intervention) and Building a BOE (Body of Evidence) for Pre-identification

April 3, 2018: Rtl (Response to Intervention) and how it relates to Gifted Programming

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

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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](#):

Adolescents and Young Adults: How to Help Them Reach Their Full Potential Rather Than Dropping Out

Presented by Femke Hovinga and Tiji Koenderink

Thursday, February 22, 2018

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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## **Beyond Giftedness Conference and Parent Mini-Conference Friday, February 23, 2018 Arvada, CO**

Our Gifted will host a conference for educators and parents at the Arvada Center for the Arts (6901 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada) on Friday, February 23, 2018 from 8am-4pm (7:30am registration). The Parent Mini-conference will be a special parent focused event from 9am-1pm (8:30am registration) which includes lunch. Featured keynote "Different Brains: The Continuum of Exceptionality" presented by Marlo Payne Thurman, Ph.D. She has a wealth of knowledge and has shared her expertise with the gifted community locally and nationally. Conference features include certificates for 7.5 hours of Professional Development and breakout sessions for teachers, counselors, administrators, and parents. Find registration, updates, and more information [here](#).

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## **Gifted Development Center Presents Gifted Women Symposium June 2, 2018**

Join Paula Prober and Linda Silverman on an unforgettable journey of self-discovery, reflection and rejuvenation.

Gifted Women Symposium  
Saturday, June 2, 2018  
8:30am - 4:30pm  
Legacy Ridge West Clubhouse  
Westminster  
[Information and registration](#)

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## Helpful Links

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

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

[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? 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. 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!

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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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