



JEFFERSON COUNTY ASSOCIATION  
FOR GIFTED CHILDREN

*September 2019*

## NEWSLETTER



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## JAGC NEWS

Check out these helpful links for back to school from the [JAGC website](#):

[Elementary School](#)

[Middle and High School](#)

[Twice Exceptional - 2E](#)

[Mental Health Resources](#)

### **[School Crossing: GT - Gift or Curse?](#)**

The Gifted and Talented road is a long one for parents and educators. What parent doesn't think their child is special? The struggle to keep your student interested and motivated in a classroom where the main focus for teachers, is to move everyone at the same speed. But what about those that have figured out what you're going to say and complete their work before anyone else? Is there more work just to keep them busy? Who is challenging them and do they even want to be challenged? Keep in mind that it's not always about scores and test results. "A sleeping cheetah is still a cheetah."

What does the GT designation really mean for the students themselves? Gift or Curse? I visited with 20 students and parents in the GT program at Wheat Ridge High and the IB program at Lakewood High and asked them about their experiences. When did they first know they were "different"? I'm referring to kids that taught themselves to read at the age of 3. First graders doing 6th grade math. Talented youngsters creating art or music at an adult level.

Read the rest of the article from Guy Nahmiach - JAGC's President, on our [website](#).

## JEFFCO GT DEPT UPDATES

### ***Where to Find Jeffco GT Information***

What is a Gifted Center? How do I enroll? Where can I find more information? Check out the answers to these and other questions on the Jeffco GT website.

Here are some helpful links:

[GT Center School FAQs](#)

[Gifted identification and assessment](#)

[List of GT Center Schools and staff](#)

[List of GT Resource teachers and counselors](#)

[GT identification and referral application](#)

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### [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.

### [GT Center Information Night Sept. 12](#)

Families can learn about GT centers at Jeffco GT Center Information Night. Locations will be held in four schools throughout the district on Thursday, September 12th, from 6:30-8 p.m. No reservations are needed.

**North Area:** North Arvada Middle School, 7285 Pierce St., Arvada

**Mountain Area:** Evergreen Middle School, 2059 S. Hiwan Dr., Evergreen

**South Area:** Ken Caryl Middle School, 6509 W Ken Caryl Ave., Littleton

**Central Area:** Jeffco Schools Ed Center Board Room, 1829 Denver West Dr. #27, Golden

### [Jeffco GT Parent Seminar Sept. 23](#)

Join the Jeffco GT Dept. for important information for GT families. The seminar is from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Jeffco Education Center, 5th floor Boardroom, 1829 Denver West Drive #27, Golden, CO 80401. No reservations are needed.

#### **September's topics:**

- Affective Goals/Goal Setting
- ALM/Affective/Habits of Mind
- Executive Functioning
- Secondary - choosing college/post-secondary
- Secondary - Next Level: Elementary and Middle School
- Gifted and Talented 101

### [Jeffco GT Dept. Back to School Resources](#)

Transitions for gifted students can be a trying experience for not only the student but also their parents. Check out the latest [GT Gazette](#) for information on school transitions and helpful links for the new school year.

### [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.

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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.

[Early bird pricing](#) is available until Sept. 20!

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

From CAGT: We are excited to announce this year's Leadership Forum Keynote speaker is Dave Taylor from *Intuitive Stories*. Come join us to 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.

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

From CAGT: On Monday evening, October 21, 2019, please join us for the 1st Annual *Family Institute* (formerly known as Parent Institute) at our 42nd Annual CAGT Conference: "A Gifted State of Mind". This year we are excited to announce our keynote speakers are Jim Delisle, Ph.D.; Lisa Van Gemert; Susan Baum, Ph.D.; and Julie Skolnick, M.A., J.D. 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 some of your questions.

### [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.

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## **[2e Support Group Starts Sept. 21](#)**

A support group for parents of twice-exceptional (2e) youth meets on alternating Saturdays starting Sept. 21, 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/Teacher Conferences Must Do's***

[JAGC's Parent-Teacher Conferences Checklist](#) offers helpful hints for a successful parent-teacher conference for your gifted child. There are also links to articles that offer guidance in advocating for your child.

## ***What You Need to Know Before Your Gifted Child Takes the PSAT***

Thank you to Ginny Riley for writing "[One Day Matters: A Mom's Journey](#)" about her son who was a National Merit Semi-Finalist at Conifer High School. She brings to light how gifted students often score lower each time they take the PSAT, why this happens, and how to keep this from happening to your child. Note, PSAT this year is scheduled in October. Please check with your high school as to when they are offering it.

## **[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 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."

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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 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 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.

### [Tech Talk Tuesdays Screen Tips for Families](#)

Subscribe to Tech Talk Tuesdays (TTT) to receive conversation starters about social media, video game use, tech tips, latest research and more. Calm, consistent conversations about screen time can improve family and classroom dynamics. Get kids more invested in TTTs by starting each conversation with a positive about screen time.

### [Understood Podcasts for Learning Issues](#)

Season 1 of "In It" podcasts for and about families of kids who learn and think differently are now available from Understood.org.

[Episode 1: Why We Cry at IEP Meetings](#)

[Episode 2: How We Deal With "Is ADHD Real?"](#)

[Episode 3: The Legit Fear Behind "Please Don't Call On Me to Read"](#)

[Episode 4: To Disclose...or Not?](#)

[Episode 5: Dyscalculia, More Than "Bad at Math"](#)

[Episode 6: When Gifted Kids Need Accommodations, Too](#)

## FOR STUDENTS

### [Discover Tech for Girls at School of Mines](#)

Registration is OPEN for our Fall 2019 sessions of [DISCOVER Tech](#) for girls in grades 3 - 6, and [EXPLORE Tech](#) for girls in grades 7 - 9. These programs take place on School of Mines campus and are developed and facilitated by female Mines students who are both passionate about their subjects of study, and sharing this passion with the next generation!



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## [CU Mini Med School: The Clinical Years](#) - September 4 to October 30

### [Registration is OPEN!](#)

In 2012, 20 years after the original Mini Med School launched, Drs. Dennis Boyle (rheumatology) and Stephen Wolf (emergency medicine) decided that Mini Med School II: The Clinical Years, was past due. An instant hit at its inaugural run in 2012, the program features some of the best teachers in the CU clinical faculty telling us about their specialties.

Want to know what a day in the life of a pediatrician is like? Or what the latest is on hypertension? Having trouble getting enough sleep? Answers to all that and more are yours at MMS II-and the price (FREE) is right, there's no homework, and it's suitable for anyone from high school on. And you can get a famous Mini Med "diploma!"

Talks take place on Wednesday evenings in the fall, and it's necessary to register so we can make sure you get all the updates and information. The lectures take place on the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora. **If that's not convenient for you, there are sites all around Colorado where you can watch (and interact!) by live video broadcast.**

### [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.

### [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.

### [Area College & Job Fairs](#)

### [College Application Deadlines](#)

### [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.

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## [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*

[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.

# EVENTS CALENDAR

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

Crush Walls Arts Festival - **Monday, September 2 through Sunday, September 8**

SENG Parent Book Study Central Group - **Wednesday, September 4**

CU Preschool Mornings at the Museum - **Thursday, September 5**

**JAGC Board Meeting** - **Thursday, September 5**

SENG Parent Book Study North Group - **Thursday, September 5**

Aviation Day Denver - **Friday, September 6**

Tattered Cover Family Fun Night - **Saturday, September 7**

Denver Astronomy Society Open House - **Saturday, September 7**

SENG Parent Book Study South Group - **Tuesday, September 10**

CU Preschool Mornings at the Museum - **Thursday, September 12**

TEDx MSU Denver - **Thursday, September 12**

**Jeffco GT Info Night** - **Thursday, September 12**

Jeffco Outdoor Lab Open House - **Saturday, September 14**

Link Between Vision and Learning Seminar - **Tuesday, September 17**

CU Preschool Mornings at the Museum - **Thursday, September 19**

Brain Run and Mental Health Expo - **Saturday, September 21**

HOOTenanny Owl and Music Festival - **Saturday, September 21**



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Denver Writes Workshop: Journaling - [Saturday, September 21](#)  
Support Group for Parents of 2E Children - [Saturday, September 21](#)  
Temple Grandin School Autism Resource Fair - [Sunday, September 22](#)  
World Migratory Bird Day - [Sunday, September 22](#)  
Free Parent/Educator IEP Workshop - [Sunday, September 22](#)  
**Jeffco GT Parent Seminar** - [Monday, September 23](#)  
Biennial of the Americas - [Tuesday, September 24 through Saturday, September 28](#)  
PEN Balance Your Brain Seminar - [Tuesday, September 24](#)  
CU Preschool Mornings at the Museum - [Thursday, September 26](#)  
CU Wizards Recharge, Reuse, REDOX...Batteries - [Saturday, September 28](#)  
Energy Day Colorado - [Saturday, September 28](#)  
Denver National College Fair - [Saturday, September 28](#)

College Fair Out of State College Night - [Wednesday, October 2](#)  
SENG Parent Book Study Central Group - [Wednesday, October 2](#)  
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](#)  
SENG Parent Book Study South Group - [Tuesday, October 8](#)  
CDE PEP Conference Fort Collins - [Thursday, October 10](#)  
CU Preschool Mornings at the Museum - [Thursday, October 10](#)  
CDE PEP Conference Fort Collins - [Friday, October 11](#)  
CDE PEP Conference Fort Collins - [Saturday, October 12](#)  
TEDx Islay Denver - [Saturday, October 12](#)  
Denver Writes Workshop: Scary Stories - [Saturday, October 12](#)  
**Fall GT Center Application Closes** - [Monday, October 14](#)  
CU Preschool Mornings at the Museum - [Thursday, October 17](#)  
**JAGC Board Meeting** - [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](#)  
CU Preschool Mornings at the Museum - [Thursday, October 24](#)  
Teen Book Con - [Saturday, October 26](#)  
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](#)

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## JOIN US!

### ***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!

Membership in JAGC includes joint membership in CAGT (Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented) and runs concurrent to the school year, September until August. 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; and 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.

### ***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 JAGC on Facebook and read GT and Jeffco-related information as part of your Facebook feed. A big thank you to Susan Carter-Ruskell for sharing great content on [JAGC's Facebook page!](#)

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.