



JEFFERSON COUNTY ASSOCIATION  
FOR GIFTED CHILDREN

# JAGC NEWS

Jefferson County Association for Gifted Children

SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY FOR ADVANCED LEARNERS

## September 2021

**Hello Families,**

**As we begin the school year** that in some ways feels like starting over, here are some questions to ask schools on behalf of your kids:

- Are they getting what they need academically, socially and emotionally?
- Have my kids fallen behind academically, and what is my school doing to address that?
- Are there social and emotional needs to be addressed due to hybrid and remote learning?

JAGC is here to help you navigate your school journey. See our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for inspiration and engagement. Forward this to a few friends so we can reach even more families this year. And thank you!

**Family survey!** JAGC will email a survey in mid-September to determine our programming for the year. We appreciate your input! Please complete the survey or email [info@jeffcogifted.org](mailto:info@jeffcogifted.org) with your ideas.

**The Jeffco GT Dept. is hosting GT Information Night** on Wednesday, Sept. 15 at four locations and virtually for families new to gifted and talented programming and for anyone who wants to learn more. Plan to attend!



JAGC Info

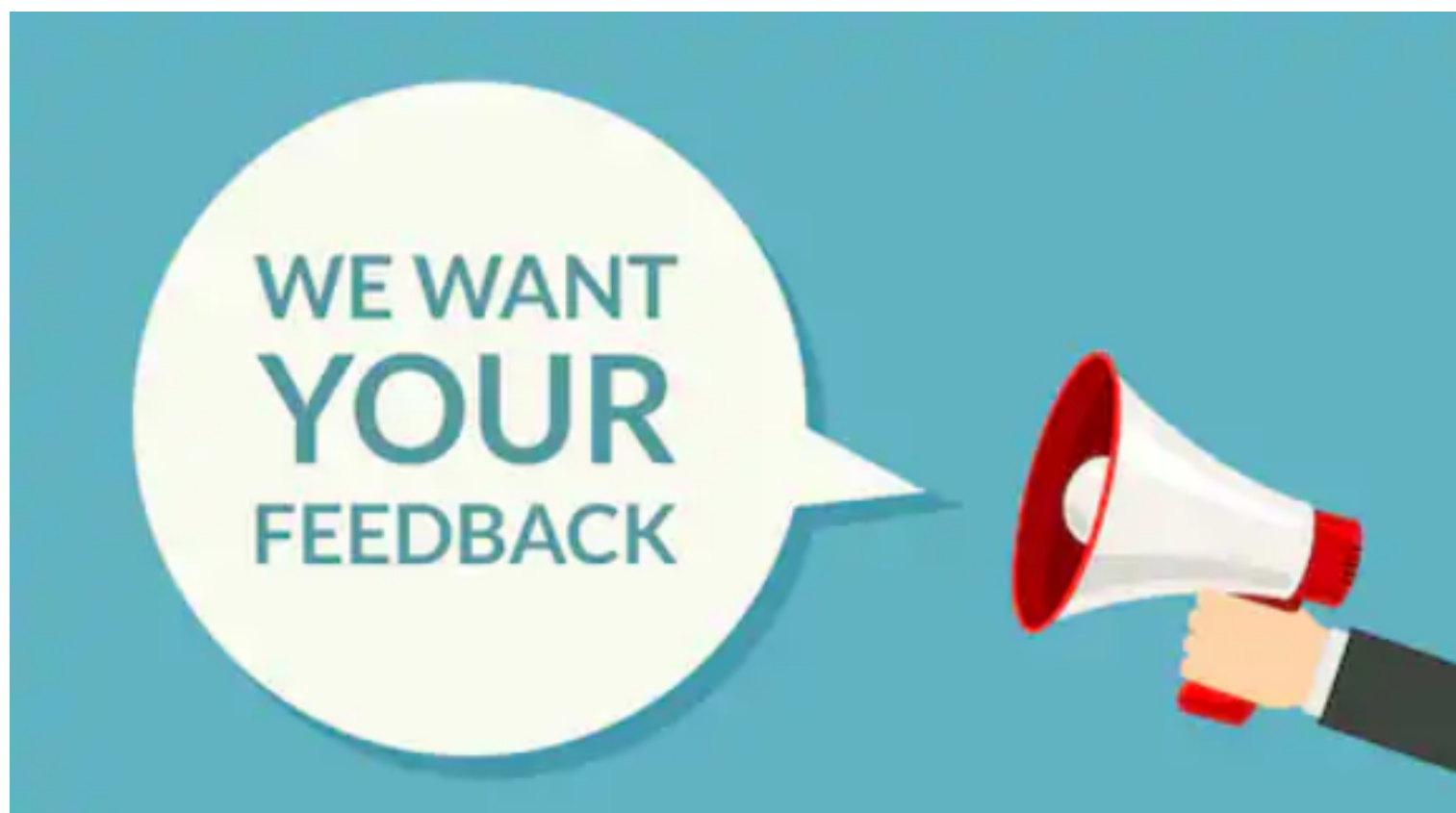
## Resources for Families to Start the School Year

Now that school has started, you may have questions about who in your school can provide academic and/or social and emotional support. Here is a list of Jeffco Gifted & Talented (GT) contacts to find yours: [GT Resource Teachers/Building Leaders/GT Counselors](#)

These staff members are available to support students:

- **School Counselors** (neighborhood schools): Counselors support the academic, career and social/emotional development for students through classroom guidance lessons, small groups, and individual student meetings.
- **Social Emotional Learning Specialists** (neighborhood schools): SELs provide direct support to individuals and groups of students that demonstrate a need for a little more help in the areas of behavior and social emotional skills.
- **GT Social Emotional Learning Counselors** (GT Center schools): SELCs generally support the academic, social emotional, and career development for gifted students in a GT center school. They provide classroom instruction, small group interventions, and brief individual counseling support. SELCs are also available for consultation with any school needing advisement in serving GT populations.
- **Nurses**: While school nurses do not provide direct, clinical support in the terms of mental health therapy, they do provide social emotional wellness support.
- **Psychologists and Social Workers** (all schools): Psychologists and social workers generally work with students with more specifically defined academic and/or social/emotional/behavioral needs as identified in their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan, as determined by the school's Special Education team. These needs are typically addressed in smaller group settings and/or with individual students.
- **GT Resource Teachers** (RT): A GT Resource Teacher provides services to students, teachers, administrators, and parents in order to meet individual students' needs. GT Resource Teachers serve many schools and are not at any school on a full-time basis.

Read more about [mental health support](#) in Jeffco  
[Jeffco mental health wellness resources](#)  
[Jeffco student mental health wellness resources](#)



**Family Survey Mid-September**

JAGC will email a survey in mid-Sept. to determine our programming for the year. We appreciate your input! Email us anytime at [info@jeffcogifted.org](mailto:info@jeffcogifted.org) with your ideas.



## **Make Your Voice Heard at Your School: Why GT Parents Should Join School Accountability Committees**

It is critical that GT parents are represented on every School Accountability Committees (SAC) to ensure that the needs of GT students are addressed.

It's not a huge commitment. SACs generally meet only five times per year. JAGC can provide you with the data and support that you need to effectively fill this role. Your school is required to give notice of SAC meetings, so if meetings are not posted on your school website and meeting notices are not sent, contact your school and ask for this.

Contact your principal today and tell him or her you want to join your School Accountability Committee.

Colorado Dept. of Education [Colorado Public School Accountability](#)  
Jeffco Schools [School Accountability Committee Resource Manual](#)

See more about parent advocacy on the [JAGC website](#)  
[Advocacy Resources from CAGT](#)  
[Advocacy Resources from NAGC](#)

**Join JAGC**



**Jeffco GT Dept. Info**

## GT Dept. Links

[August Jeffco GT Gazette](#)

[List of Jeffco GT staff](#)

See the [Parent/Family Resources page](#) for resources and other useful links

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# JEFFCO GT INFORMATION NIGHT SEPT. 15, 6 PM

**Evergreen Middle School  
North Arvada Middle School  
Jeffco Education Center  
Ken Caryl Middle School  
& Virtual**

## GT Center Information Night Sept. 15

Families can learn about gifted education in Jeffco including GT Identification and GT Center programs at Jeffco GT Center Information Night on Wednesday, Sept. 15 at 6 PM. This event is for all families with identified Gifted & Talented students, and those with Advanced Learning Plans (ALPs). Learn about GT programming, meet staff and ask questions. There are four locations and a virtual meeting this year:

- North Arvada Middle School
- Evergreen High School
- Jeffco Education Center
- Ken Caryl Middle School

See [the event website](#) for more information and to RSVP and/or submit questions.

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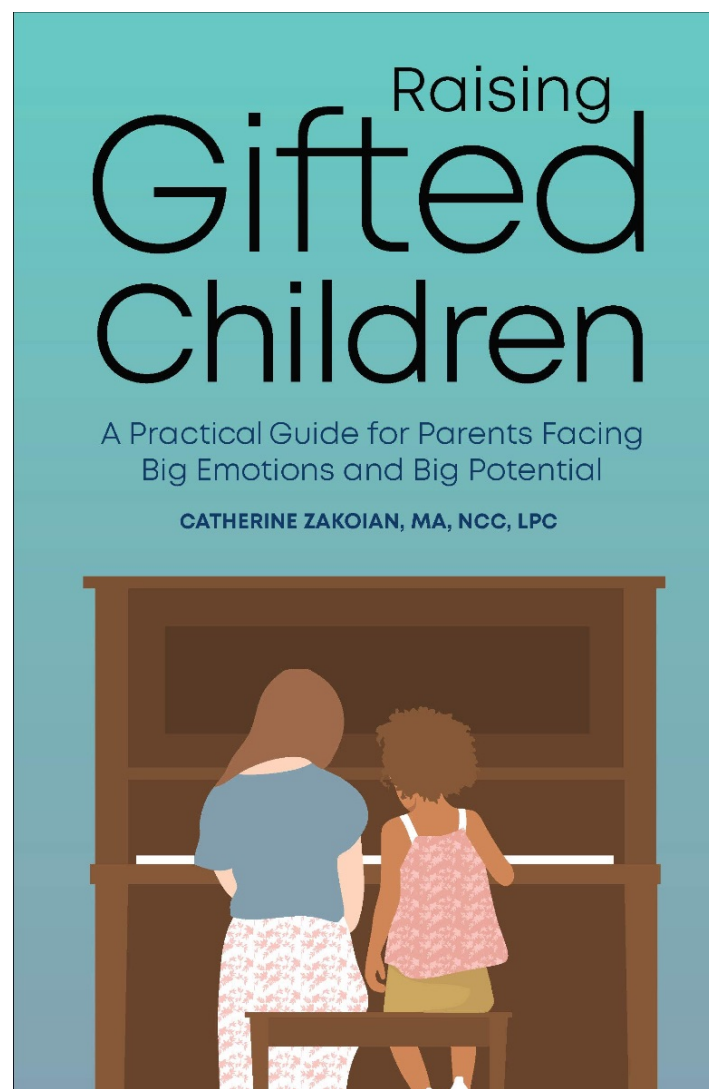
# JEFFCO FAMILY BOOK STUDY GROUPS

4 Online Groups Starting in September

- Smart Parenting for Smart Kids
- Make Your Worrier a Warrior
- A Parent's Guide to Gifted Children
- Understanding Your Gifted Child, From the Inside Out

## Family Book Study Groups

Jeffco's GT Social Emotional Learning Counselors (GT SELCS) are hosting free monthly parent book clubs/family book study groups that provide an opportunity for families to learn about their GT child(ren) and to connect with other parents/families who understand the unique joys and challenges of raising GT kids. Families are responsible for buying the relevant book for each session and must register in advance. [Register here.](#)



## [GT Parent/Family Learning Night](#) [Oct. 5](#)

**Author and Consultant**  
**Catherine Zakoian**

6:15-8 PM, Jeffco Ed Center Board Room,  
Golden CO 80401

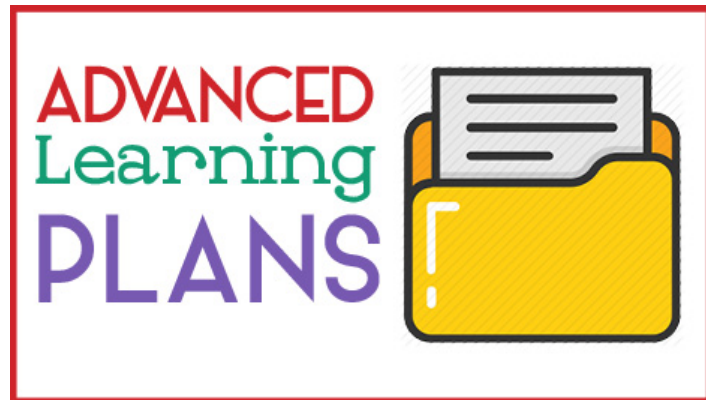
Catherine Zakoian will be presenting on children who are gifted, twice-exceptional (2e) and profoundly gifted children. Her educational consultation practice provides guidance on creating psychologically healthy educational environments, authentic leadership and program development, and meaningful educator self-awareness and care within well-recognized public, independent, and alternative PreK-12 programs and schools serving gifted and neurotypical populations. She has presented regionally, nationally and internationally on giftedness.

## Gifted & Talented Center Placement and Identification - Applications Due Oct. 15

The fall 2021 [GT Center Application](#) is for students testing for the 2022-23 school year for enrollment in one of Jeffco's [17 GT Center Schools](#). For more information on the process, please visit the [GT Identification and Assessment website](#).

Use the [Academic ID Referral link](#) if you are looking for GT identification only and not GT Center placement. Use the GT Center application to apply for a GT Center.

After your forms are submitted, you will be notified of your child's testing date, either on Oct. 23 or Oct. 30. This is the only testing that will occur during the 2021-2022 school year.



### Advanced Learning Plans Process Underway

Schools should be starting the Advanced Learning Plan (ALP) goal-setting phase, to be completed by the end of October. GT learners in Jeffco write one academic and one affective goal each year, to help them focus on actualizing their personal potential. For more information on ALPs, see the [Advanced Learning Plan webpage](#). Contact your [GT Resource Teacher](#) with questions.



## Calendar & Events

# National Association for Gifted Children 68th Annual Convention



**DENVER, CO**  
**NOVEMBER 11-14** **21**

## **Here in Denver! National Association for Gifted Children Conference Nov. 11-14**

The Colorado Association for Gifted & Talented is hosting this year's National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) Convention Nov. 11-14 at the Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center in Aurora. In addition to four days of expert speakers and dozens of breakout sessions and special sessions, there will also be pre-convention workshops (separate registration required). [Click here for information and to register.](#)

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[JAGC calendar - activities, events & conferences](#)

[Broomfield area events](#)

[Denver area things to do](#)

[Denver area TedX conferences](#)

[Denver Mensa speaker series](#)

[PEN Parent Engagement Network events](#)

[Belin-Blank Center Gifted Education online classes and conferences](#)

[Hoagies Gifted list of conferences](#)

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### **Conversations with CAGT - Tuesdays at 5 PM**

All of the sessions are on the [CAGT website](#) and on their [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#).





## Resources

### Back to School Resources

[Back to School Resource Roundup \(NAGC\)](#)

[Set Yourself Up for School Year Success \(CO Parent\)](#)

[5 Strategies for Students Learning Online \(Edmentum\)](#)

[Advocating for Gifted Services \(NAGC\)](#)



## Newsletter Links

### See our [website](#) for these helpful resources:

For Parents New to GT - Jeffco GT Dept. Info and GT 101 - Parent Info & Resources - Student Programs & Enrichment - Homework Help - Learning Supports - Scholarships - College Resources - National GT Resources

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[Jefferson County Association for Gifted Children \(JAGC\)](#) is a nonprofit group providing leadership and support to families and educators of advanced learners in Jefferson County, Colorado.

[Jeffcogifted.org](http://Jeffcogifted.org)

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