GT Center
Information Night

September 16, 2020
Meeting Norms tonight

- All participants’ audio and video remain muted for security purposes
- Visit our GT webpage for general info:
  - jeffcopublicschools.org/programs/gifted_talented
- And navigate to the page about this event to submit questions and see FAQs:
  jeffcopublicschools.org/programs/gifted_talented/gt_center_information_night
- This event is not recorded, but we will have the slides and video on our website

Tonight’s Learning Targets

● Provide an understanding around how we identify students for GT
● Communicate how to initiate the Advanced Learning Plan process
● Learn how to apply for the GT Center Program
● Receive an overview of GT Programming in Jefferson County
● Connect our Jeffco community to GT Resources
Submitting Questions

For security purposes, we will not enable chat or sharing tonight.

If we do not address your question in the course of the evening, GT RTs and SELCs will follow-up with an email to answer your questions.
The Gifted and Talented Department by the numbers...

11,000+ Identified Students

1 Director

13 GT Resource Teachers (RTs)*

10 Social Emotional Learning Counselors (SELCs)

2 Support Staff (plus .5 part time)

*we currently have 3-4 RTs covering classrooms
"Gifted and talented children" are those learners between the ages of four and eighteen whose abilities, talents, and/or potential for accomplishment are so exceptional or developmentally advanced that they require special provisions to meet their educational programming needs. Children under five, that have qualified as gifted through the Early Access process, may also be provided with early childhood special educational services.

Gifted students include students with disabilities (i.e. twice-exceptional) and students with exceptional abilities or potential from all socio-economic and cultural populations. Gifted students are capable of high performance, extraordinary production, or exceptional learning behavior by virtue of any or a combination of these areas of giftedness:

- General or specific intellectual ability
- Specific academic aptitude
- Creative or productive thinking
- Leadership abilities
- Visual arts, performing arts, musical or psychomotor abilities
State Guidance

- Requirement for all 57 administrative units in Colorado to adopt and implement a program plan to identify and serve gifted children.

- Exceptional Children’s Education Act requires that administrative units program for, and be accountable for exceptional children including gifted and talented, limited English proficient, and special education.
Identification Pathways

Pathway 1: Academic Achievement
Pathway 2: Academic Aptitude
Pathway 3: Talent Areas
Pathway 4: General Intellectual
Qualifying evidence is at the **95th percentile** or ‘Advanced/Exceeds’ standards level
No single piece of evidence permanently qualifies / disqualifies a student’s identification

**Body of Evidence:** 3 pieces from any 2 categories below

### Cognitive*
- CogAT, NNAT, KBIT
- IQ tests: DAS, WISC, WPPSI
- Torrance Test of Creative Abilities

*only 1 qualifies
*We accept outside testing

### Achievement*
- District: MAP Trend, CMAS
- GT Dept: TERA, TEMA, TOMAGS, KTEA, Others

*may have 2 qualifying achievement pieces

### Behavioral Observations*
- Scales for Identifying Gifted Students (SIGS, normed)
- Parent narrative (not normed)

*only normed instruments (like SIGS) qualify

### Performance Evaluation
- State/national academic contest: top place/ranking
- Expert juried performance: Advanced/Distinguished
- Expert Assessed portfolio review: Advanced/Above grade level
Twice Exceptional, English Language Learners and other exceptionalities

- “Students from underrepresented populations may not demonstrate gifted abilities through the use of traditional achievement data.”
- If a student has factors like learning or language challenges, this is considered in the body of evidence review process, as per CDE guidelines
- **Twice-exceptional (2e) students**: identified GT and either on an IEP or 504
Cognitive Testing

- 2nd Grade: All Jeffco students take Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) as part of Universal Assessment (Screening)
- Other grade levels tested in October for:
  - GT Identification
  - GT Center qualification
  - [Currently planned: in-person testing, exploring remote options]
- Non-Jeffco students: may have different procedures this year
  - $25 fee (no charge for current Jeffco students)
- We will review outside cognitive testing (IQ tests like WISC, WPPSI, etc.)
Portability

- Transferring gifted identification (ALP) from one Colorado district to another
- Out of state transfers
Advanced Learning Plans are part of HB 1244. This requires that all school districts need to identify and program for advanced learners.

- It is a tool that “drives” instruction and social-emotional guidance.
- It is a “living document” and revised as necessary.
- It is a communication tool between students, teachers, and parents.
- It is used to measure student’s progress and the effectiveness of programming by including an indicator of success, self-efficacy, and next steps.
- Available at all Jeffco (and CO) schools for GT students!
Advanced Learning Plan
Flow Chart \ Life Cycle

Beginning of Year
- Evaluate Goals: set goal status as Met or Unmet
  - May / End of year

Progress Monitoring
- 2nd Checkpoint: adjust services as necessary
  - March to April (continued Monitoring)

Goal Setting
- Student: set goals using ALP tool
  - August to October

Progress Monitoring
- 1st Checkpoint: adjust services as necessary
  - November to February

Jeffco Public Schools
Gifted and Talented
1629 Denver West Dr. #27
Golden, CO 80401
Phone: 303-982-6050 Fax: 303-982-6053
www.jeffcopublicschools.org/programs/gifted_talented
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GT Support at Our Neighborhood Schools

School Level Support
Classroom Teacher & GT Building Leader

Central Level Support
GT Resource Teacher assigned to all schools

Same for in-person and remote learners this year
Jeffco’s Gifted Center School (K-12)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coronado K-5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devinny K-5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hackberry Hill K-5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kendrick Lakes K-5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kyffin K-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parmalee K-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheridan Green K-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stevens K-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Westridge K-5</td>
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<td>Creighton 6-8</td>
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<td>Evergreen 6-8</td>
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<td>Everitt 6-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ken Caryl 6-8</td>
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<td>North Arvada 6-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Jefferson 6-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wheat Ridge 9-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arvada 9-12</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SPARKS K-8</td>
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</tbody>
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GT Centers

- Each GT Center school houses a GT Resource Teacher as well as a GT Social Emotional Learning Counselor
- The GT Department partners with the school to provide ongoing professional learning
- Differentiated curriculum is available that is uniquely curated for the needs of GT students
- GT Centers operate as a school within a school with integration during electives in most cases
- GT Centers are for grades 1st through 12th grade
- Currently, both in person and remote options are available (follows district)
- Currently do not have dual language options
GT Centers cont...

Classrooms:
- GT Certified Teachers (Highly Qualified)
- All classmates are either identified, or in the process of being identified

Supports:
- GT Resource Teacher
- Social Emotional Learning Counselors
- Ongoing GT professional learning
Social Emotional Learning Counselors (SELCs)

- Classroom
- Small Group
- Individual
- Teacher & Mental Health Collaboration
- Family Support
- Twice Exceptional (2e) students
Transportation

- No district transportation is provided for choice students outside of normal attendance boundaries
GT Programming in Jeffco: Summary

All Jeffco Schools (incl. Option & Charters)

- 80% of gifted learners in Jeffco are in neighborhood/option/charter schools.
- All Jeffco neighborhood and charter schools are supported by a GT Resource Teacher.
- Neighborhood schools can have a variety of different focuses like Project Based Learning (PBL), Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM), Science Technology Engineering Arts and Math (STEAM), GT Clustering and/or ‘Pull-out’ models.
- GT students are sometimes clustered in the same classroom with like-ability peers.
- Each school provides mental health support for all students.
- Differentiation is provided for all ability levels.
- All GT students on ALPs

GT Center Schools

- Each GT Center school houses a GT Resource Teacher (RT) as well as a GT Social Emotional Learning Counselor (SELC).
- Ongoing professional learning to GT Center teachers, who have extensive GT training.
- “School within a school”: GT Centers are in neighborhood schools. A GT Center class is a separate classroom, for each grade, of all GT Center students.
  - High School program varies slightly
- GT Centers have a differentiated curriculum uniquely curated for the needs of GT students.
  - Math is accelerated. Language Arts, Social Studies & Science: deeper exploration
- Every student admitted to a GT Center either has an ALP or has a strong body of evidence and is on their way to having an ALP.
GT Center Application Process (2021-22 SY)

Step 1: Complete the online application *(by October 14, 2020 for the 2021-22 year!)*

- Notification of testing schedule occurs 3-5 days prior to testing
- *If your current school is a GT Center and your child is currently identified, you DO still need to apply*

Step 2: The family fills out the parent narrative

Step 3: The body of evidence is reviewed to determine whether testing is needed

Step 4: If needed, the student is assessed using the CogAT

- *Currently planned for in-person testing; we are exploring remote testing options*

Step 5: All data is gathered and reviewed by the placement team

Step 6: Parents are notified of decision (start of Winter Break)
Important Dates

**August 1st – October 14th**
2020 GT Center Fall Application **CLOSES @ 4 pm.**
You will receive an email notification regarding test location/time and details prior to your test date.

**October 10th & October 24th**
K-8 CogAT Testing

**December 18th**
Center application notification letters and test results are sent home

**Week of January 6th**
GT Center school visitations for students who have gone through the application process and qualified for GT Center

**Enrollment**
GT Center Enrollment will follow EnrollJeffco guidelines and deadlines (tentatively Jan 15).
Acceptance into individual GT Center schools is part of a lottery for qualified students based on enrollment numbers
Additional Data

In some cases where the student is identified as GT and is currently at a neighborhood school, the review team may require additional testing to occur.

This often occurs during transition years (elementary to middle school) unless the qualifying data is relatively new.

We will consider outside testing data.
Deciding if GT Center programming is the right option for your child

- Academically gifted in multiple areas
- Programming
  - Depth & Complexity
  - Acceleration
  - Math (placement body of evidence)
- High School model
- Additional Social-Emotional Support (GT SELCs)
- Trained GT Center Teachers
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Early Access

- CDE Guidelines: “Highly Advanced Gifted Child” (top 3%)
- Early Access to kindergarten applications for the 2021-22 school year open in January
- For more information, go to our Jeffco GT website

jeffcopublicschools.org/programs/gifted_talented/early_access
Additional Resources
Resource Links:

Jeffco GT

Twice Exceptional webpage

Jeffco Association for Gifted Children (JAGC)

Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented (CAGT)

National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC)

Jeffco GT Facebook Page
Parent/Family Book Study Groups

jeffcopublicschools.org/programs/gifted_talent/ed/seng___family_book_study_groups
Parent Seminars

Oct 5: Deb Douglas: Encouraging Your Child’s Self-Advocacy in the Time of COVID

Jan 20: Various Topics on Gifted Parenting

See more information on our Parent/Family Resources webpage:

jeffcopublicschools.org/programs/gifted_talented/parent_family_resources
Self Advocacy

Deb Douglas

Encouraging Your Child’s Self-Advocacy in the Time of COVID

Oct 5; 6:30-8pm

jeffcopublicschools.org/programs/gifted_talented

for more info
JAGC

Jeffco Association for Gifted Children: jeffcogifted.org

GT Advocacy Group: affiliate of Colorado Association for Gifted & Talented (CAGT)

Informative Monthly Newsletter https://www.jeffcogifted.org/newsletter-signup.html

Welcome video: Guy Nahmiach (Pres.)
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