Upcoming Events

Shadows in the Arts - Middle School
April 10 - 8:00-3:00 pm
Loveland Museum & Gallery

Shadows in the Arts - Elementary School
April 11 - 9:00-12:00 and 1:00-4:00
Loveland Museum & Gallery

Odyssey of the Mind State Tournament
April 12
Erie High School

NoCo Gifted Community
April 14 - 6:30-8:00pm
TSD Admin Building - Board Room

District Chess Tournament
April 26 - 8:00-1:00 pm
Lucile Erwin Middle School

College Prep Night for GT
April 29 - 6:30-8:30 pm
Loveland High School

GT Meetup - Transitions
May 8 - 11:50-12:50 pm
Cottonwood Plains Elementary

"What will your verse be?"

This month, the GT department will be hosting the College Prep Night for GT, with speakers, schools and honors programs available for our GT students and families. Since College and Career Readiness is critical to student success, it seemed apropos for the monthly newsletter theme. As I awaited inspiration, I kept thinking about:

Proficiency, 21st Century Skills, College Admissions, SATs, ACTs, Financial Aid

Important? You betcha. Inspiring? Well....no!

Just before the start of Spring Break, Superintendent Dr. Scheer sent an email with a video clip to district faculty and staff. In The Dead Poets Society, Mr. Keating challenged the young men in class with, "What will your verse be?"

As a parent, I find myself asking, is college the only path to success? Is a traditional career the end goal? How do I teach my child that when you combine passion with knowledge, skill and contribution, personal success and fulfillment are not far behind?

What will your verse be?

Helping Kids of All Ages "Get "Ready"

Developing Passion

"Giftedness to me is a great deal of heart and soul. Yet, most of the work, research, and approaches to reaching the gifted child is on a cognitive basis. We try to understand the gifted with our brain, with reason. The whole approach to education, beginning with parents, has moved to a cognitive basis. By excluding the emotions, we miss the essence of
Parental Goals vs. Children's Goals

"I've got something else, but it may not be for you."

"Had I the heavens embroidered cloths,
Enwrought with gold and silver light,
The blue and the dim and the dark cloths of night
and light and the half-light,
I would spread the cloths under your feet;
But I, being poor, have only my dreams;
I have spread my dreams under your feet;
Tread softly because you tread on my dreams."

- W.B. Yeats

Gifted children usually have gifted parents. Their anxiety and desire to shield their child from the same experiences they faced influences them to put pressure on the child to fit in. Parents may disregard the child's needs and agenda because they are acting on their own emotional needs. It is my belief that there is a life-force within each child which pushes him or her in the direction where the Self wants to go. The child's first loyalty is to his or her own needs.

Find the Why

"What is the reason why you do what you do? What is the life you want to live? Find it. Live it. Grasp it. Most of all, leave a legacy by doing it."

Guy Romero talks about helping our students to “find the why” as they explore their future.

Goals vs. Expectations

Others’ expectation for talented young people compete with the pull of their own dreams and plans. Gifted students have a heightened sensitivity often accompanied by heightened vulnerability to criticism, suggestions and emotional appeals from others.

Each time your child reaches beyond his or her comfort zone or achieves something new, this will build confidence. Encourage your child to try new things, and reinforce his or her successes. This sort of positive reinforcement will inspire and motivate your child to keep working hard toward his or her goals.

Identify Role Models and Mentors

"If we want them to achieve, we must link them with achievers....One plus one--Pass it on." (H. Weinberg, The Public Television Outreach Alliance)

"The term MENTOR does not imply an internship, an apprenticeship, or a casual hit-or-miss relationship in which the student simply spends time in the presence of an adult and information is transmitted (Boston, 1989)."

"A mentorship, on the other hand, is a dynamic shared relationship in which values, attitudes, passions, and traditions are passed from one person to another and internalized. Its purpose is to transform lives (Boston, 1976)."
Studying vs. Homework? What's the difference?

Students (and often parents) believe that studying and doing homework are the same thing. However, they should be approached as two very distinct, separate tasks.

**Homework** commonly consists of assignments that instructors assign to be completed at home by students. The general purpose of homework assignments is to reinforce the knowledge that you learn in the classroom. These assignments allow for extra practice, so that you can refine your skills and knowledge in a particular area.

**Studying** refers to time students set aside to go over key concepts from class and make sure their knowledge is complete. It is going over class material to ensure complete understanding. Studying is about learning on your own time, without the specific guidance of a teacher. The initiative involved in taking control of their own study patterns will help them become independent learners, preparing them for college and beyond.

Source: NAGC
ERIC Digests: Mentor Relationships and Gifted Learners

Planning for College

Students with learning challenges must take several steps to prepare for selecting the right college and for a successful college experience.

"Your successes and your challenges in high school will also help you in deciding the type of support you may need at college. Remember, there are no IEPs in college. Different legislation, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, will now provide you with access but this is very different from what you may be used to high school. You need to learn about this difference."  

Source: NCLD
Planning for College Success for Students With Learning Disabilities by Vincent J. Varrassi MA, LDT-C

Thompson Schools
800 S. Taft Ave.
Loveland, Colorado 80537
michelle.stout@thompsonschools.org

Copyright © 20XX. All Rights Reserved.