October 2022

Fall is a busy time in the GT Department. September and October are when the Cognitive Abilities Test, nicknamed the CogAT (pronounced cō-găt), is administered to all 2nd-graders as well as 6th-grade students without a previous CogAT score. The purpose of this assessment is to identify students with exceptional ability or potential, especially students from traditionally underrepresented populations.

Fall is also Advanced Learning Plan (ALP) season. The ALP is a legal document outlining programming for identified gifted students and is used as a guide for educational planning and decision-making. Each plan consists of at least one strength-based academic goal and an affective goal, accommodations, and service structures. Plans are developed in conjunction with school personnel, the student, and the family.

October brings the annual Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented (CAGT) conference. We in Northern Colorado are lucky to have this conference at the Embassy Suites in Loveland. The evening of October 17 is the Family Institute. More information is below.

Sincerely,

Michelle Stout - Gifted and Talented Parent Liaison

Family Institute
Registration is Open!

The CAGT Family Institute is designed specifically for parents, guardians, grandparents, and any adult who plays an integral role in raising their gifted children. During the event, our presenters will share their expertise on how to support the unique academic and social-emotional needs of these children when at home. The Family Institute takes place on Monday, October 17th, from 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm at the Embassy Suites, John Q. Hammons Conference Center in Loveland. This year, it is $30 for up to two members of one household to attend. What a deal! Download Flyer

This event is hosted by CAGT, not Thompson School District. Please direct all questions to CAGT directly.
Underachievement in Gifted
Lisa Van Gemert

“Do you see this girl? She’s a budding underachiever. How can I tell?” It’s the look on her face and the boring paper in front of her. How many times can you color this thing blue and that thing red? I don’t care if you call them bright or gifted or talented or smart. I don’t care if you call it tomato or tomahto. But there is one label I loathe: underachiever. Let me explain”. Read more...

GT Parent Nights on Zoom

Lisa Van Gemert is the trifecta of gifted - she is a grown, gifted child (yes, gifted kids become gifted adults), she's raising gifted children and is an expert in gifted education as a teacher, administrator, author, and speaker.

On October 25, Lisa will address Underachievement in Gifted. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from the Gifted Guru herself. Flyer

This event is hosted by the Colorado Department of Education - Gifted Education Department, not the Thompson School District. Please direct all questions to CDE directly.

Characteristics of Underachievers

An important thing to remember is that underachievement is a behavior. This means that it can be modified. So, the lesson here would be not to label the student as an underachiever, but to label the behavior itself. "For example, the student is “underachieving in math and language arts” rather than an “underachieving student". (Jim DeLisle) Read more...

Behavioral Characteristics Checklist
100 Words of Wisdom

“He’s underperforming.”

“Not listening.”

“He has potential; just needs to try.”

I’ve heard it all. Taken it with humility. My son has dealt with it and survived the disdain. We knew he was gifted, knew he had ADHD. But many teachers can’t reconcile the two. Finally, IQ testing showed he scores in the 99th percentile for the verbal domain and the 20th percentile for working memory and processing speed. He has ADHD that even maxed-out medication can’t erase. He’s twice exceptional. That’s why he looks smart, yet appears to be spacing out.

He is. Deal with it. He has to.” - Kari DeMarco Read More..
Underachievement in Gifted Davidson Academy

"...some profoundly gifted students end up being bored in school, even in classes that are designed to be challenging. Boredom often transforms into underachievement, social isolation, and an overall disinterest in academics. In some cases, underachievement among profoundly gifted students does not reveal itself until students are finally in an environment in which they are being appropriately challenged. These students—who may now be challenged and forced to work hard in school, employing study skills or even discovering holes in their knowledge—are then at risk of becoming disillusioned with their own intellect, which can cause poor self-esteem, anxiety, and academic underachievement. Read More...”

Underachievement in Gifted Students: Reversal is Possible!

When we think about gifted learners, we often see them as high-achieving, motivated individuals. However, at times, many gifted students experience a discrepancy between their abilities and achievement, meaning that there are indicators such as intelligence assessments or products that show high ability, but standard school assessments do not. How is this possible? We can attribute this discrepancy to a phenomenon identified as gifted underachievement. Underachievement in gifted students can result from a variety of causes, including social issues, emotional sensitivities, unchallenging curriculum, undiagnosed learning disabilities, and unsupportive environments. Because most school settings are unprepared to understand the scope of gifted underachievement, it is important to be informed of the characteristics of gifted underachievement and strategies that can reverse its effects. Read More...

The 3×10 Rule for Time Management
ADHD: The 3x10 Rule for Time Management

Does this beam only lift me?
How do you avoid pulling up dirt and leaves and stuff? If I kick off my shoes, will they fall?
Is my weight pulling your ship downward? What will happen if a bat flies through the beam?
Hey, why does your ship have those blinky lights? Are they...

Moments later, the aliens set me back down and left.

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* Name

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GT Coffee Talks

Watch the events calendar and your inbox for an upcoming GT Coffee Talk at your school. These are informal times to connect with your fellow GT parents and share thoughts TSD's GT Parent Liaison.

To request a GT Coffee Talk at your school, contact Michelle Stout.

Upcoming Events

**OCT 25**  
6:00 PM - 7:15 PM  
Underachievement in Gifted - Lisa Van Gemert

**NOV 1**  
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
Conversations with CAGT - Facebook Live Events

**NOV 9**  
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
GT 101 - Parent/Guardian Night

**NOV 10**  
6:00 PM - 6:30 PM  
Free Webinar - What Parents Need to Know about Testing

**NOV 15**  
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
Conversations with CAGT - Facebook Live Events

**NOV 29**  
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
Conversations with CAGT - Facebook Live Events

**DEC 13**  
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
Conversations with CAGT - Facebook Live Events

→ View Calendar

Resources

https://www.thompsonschools.org/Page/24811