November 2015

Dear Michelle,

In his most recent publication, *Dumbing Down America*, Dr. Jim Delisle asks "Will gifted kids who underachieve be noticed as anything but lazy?"

Now, if you happen to have a gifted underachiever living under your roof, you might identify with the perception of laziness. After all, these kids often appear to exhibit poor study habits (if any at all), a disengaged attitude towards school and academics, and often blame others for their school related problems.

But, what are the consequences if we are wrong?

Michelle Stout - GT Parent Liaison

**Parenting a Bright/High Potential Underachieving Child**

Gifted underachievers may deliberately hide their ability in order to seek peer acceptance or avoid appearing different. They may lack the motivation to achieve and will need intervention strategies to enable their giftedness to be identified. Parents/caregivers may be reluctant to acknowledge, or may be unaware, that their child is gifted.

Join your parent peers and Dr. Jennifer Ritchotte, Assistant Professor of Special Education, UNC, as we delve into the world of underachievement and discuss strategies to reverse it.

**Thursday, November 19**
6:30-8:00 pm
Mountain View HS - Library
3500 Mountain Lion Dr., Loveland

Register Now
If you answered "yes", have you considered mentoring a young person who shares that passion?

E3 Learning connects industry experts as mentors for students in their area of passion learning. Contact me if you are interested in finding out how you can join over 100 community members who have volunteered to share their time and expertise with our students! ~Diane

Learning Opportunities

Talents, Traits, and Intensities: How Parents Can Survive Gifted Behaviors on Steroids

"Curious, passionate, focused, intellectual." Hundreds of words have been used to describe characteristics, traits, and behaviors associated with giftedness. Does that mean that a person needs to have all of those descriptors to a high degree to be considered "gifted?" How would that be possible?

Dr. Omdal will present a different way of looking at these traits and characteristics associated with giftedness and exceptionalities as well as ways to help parent a child with one or more of the characteristics on "steroids."

Stuart N. Omdal, Ph.D. is a Professor, School of Special Education and Academic Coordinator of Gifted and Talented Education and Director of the Summer

The characteristic found most frequently and consistently among gifted underachievers is low self-esteem.

Gifted and Talented: Gifted Underachievers

Underachievement: the label that keeps on taking

Do you see this girl?

She's a budding underachiever. ... there is one label I loathe: underachiever. Let me explain. We have to recognize that by naming something under-achievement, we create a paradigm that we expect kids to buy into in a big, fat, hairy way. We have to convince them that our system of exchange - grades for work - is valuable, tenable, and, in fact, the epitome of success.

It is possible that so-called underachievers are not failing the system, but rather rejecting it. "If my only motivation for effort is my fear of failure in an existing system, only three choices exist."

Continue reading at Lisa Van Gemert, Resources, Ideas & Tips from the Gifted Guru

"My teacher says I'm an underachiever, but I think she's an overexpecter."
"I don't like school."

As a veteran educator and Gifted/Talented Specialist, those words resonate with me on a variety of levels when spoken by any child, but especially from a gifted student.

Our E3 Learning students come to us from all walks of life, including homeschool and public school, and range in age/grade from kindergarten through twelfth grade. While gifted identification is not required or necessary to participate in this personalized learning program, I find that many of the students who seek this learning journey do have an area of identified giftedness, or clearly should have had the opportunity to be formally tested at some time in their educational career.

When educators don't recognize and address the needs of the underachieving gifted student we see that under served population fall through the proverbial cracks. Continue reading

Visit E3 Learning or contact E3 Director Diane McInturff to schedule an appointment to discuss how E3 can support your child’s learning journey.

The usual knee-jerk response to teenage underachievement is to take away what the adolescents love to do until they begin to achieve again. But how often does this actually work? Find out here.

Thompson School District Serves as Host to Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented Conference

The 38th annual Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented conference traveled north in October to Embassy Suites Loveland for its 2015 event. The professional conference has an annual attendance of approximately 700 educators, administrators and parents. As part of the experience, visitors were treated to several musical performances by TSD students. Students also displayed several pieces of artwork throughout the conference area.

The Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented (CAGT) is a nonprofit organization of parents, educators and others interested in promoting appropriate education, including creative and critical thinking, for gifted and talented children. CAGT also seeks public recognition and support for the special needs of gifted and talented children.
November 10, 2015

**Motivation and Underachievement**
Presenter: Jim Webb
December 17, 2015

*Note: Registration is not open for all upcoming webinars at this time. Please stay tuned.*

**Creative Underachievers and the Fashion of Passion (Recorded webinar)**

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**Ted Talks & Video**

Solving the Riddle of Underachievement: Kenneth Christian

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**Local Organizations**

Join your Northern Colorado peers at this fall’s first NoCo Gifted Community meeting.

Thurs., November 5 6:45-7:45 pm Dazbog Coffee 1423 Denver Ave. Learn More

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**Gifted and Underachieving...The Twice Exceptional Learner**

Nine-year-old Sophie is a fourth grader who loves math and science. Her bedroom is filled with a dozen science projects at various stages of completion. Her mom tells Sophie's teacher about her love of science and asks if Sophie may attend the school's gifted program.

The teacher says that Sophie's overall performance in class is average. Sophie is often impulsive and distracted in class, is argumentative, and doesn't get along with her peers. The teacher also says that Sophie could do better if she just tried harder. She is not a candidate for the school's gifted program. Continue reading Melissa Sornik at SENG

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**The Misunderstood Face of Giftedness**

Giftedness too is not always seen as a socially positive and valued trait. Many gifted kids are bullied, others underachieve to hide their abilities, and some experience anxiety and depression with increased risk for self-harm. As many as 20 percent may drop out of school. Continue Reading.