



JEFFCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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[http://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/programs/gifted\\_talented](http://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/programs/gifted_talented)



# JEFFCO GT GAZETTE

## 2019 Fall GT Center Testing/ID Process

The 2019 Fall GT Center Testing application window will be from August 1 to October 14, 2019. Testing will take place on Saturday, October 19 & Saturday, November 2. This testing is for GT Center placement for the 2020-21 school year.

**Please note:** we will only be conducting GT Center Testing in the fall this year -- there will not be a spring Center testing application window!

## 2019- 20 Parent Seminars

Save these dates for the 19-20 school year Parent Learning Seminars:

- September 23, 2019
- November 11, 2019
- January 27, 2020
- February 24, 2020

All seminars are held at the Jeffco Ed Center 5th floor Board Room from 6:15 - 8:00 pm. Visit our website for more info prior to each event.

## School Safety

School safety is a big concern for students, parents and educators. Gifted students, especially those with over-excitabilities, can be more affected by safety concerns. Here are a few articles that may help you in supporting your child.

[School Safety- Talking to Children about Violence](#)

For children who have experienced trauma, this article may be helpful as well: [Trauma- A Call for Collaboration](#)

Website: Specialists on Police and Public Safety, Psychology, Crisis Intervention, Trauma Recovery, and Violence Prevention.

<http://traumathreatandpublicsafetypsychology.com/>

## GT Summer Resources & Opportunities

Jeffco has developed this [Toolkit](#) of ideas to sustain engagement over the summer. Also see this [NAGC Summer Opportunities](#) article, and this [Enrichment Parent Tips](#) sheet.

## Successful Transitions

Transitions for gifted students can be a trying experience for not only the student but also their parents. The academic and behavioral expectations between elementary school and middle school can be very different which can cause increased anxiety for gifted students. Learning how to manage their homework load, advocating for themselves with multiple teachers, developing study skills and staying organized are all challenges that many gifted students face. Gifted characteristics such as perfectionism, emotional intensities, underachievement, and twice exceptionality can add to the challenges of transitions. The following articles are resources to help gifted families seamlessly manage the transition of their student.

[Transitioning Your Gifted Child from School Year to Summer Vacation](#)

[Transitioning from Elementary to Middle School: Tips for Parents of Gifted Students](#)

[Grade Level: Middle School](#)

## Jeffco GT Student Wins National Filmmaking Award

Congratulations to Gabriel Giaquinto for winning American University's Eco-Comedy Video Competition in Washington, D.C. The goal of the international competition was to create a comedic 3 minute or less video to raise awareness on climate change. Here's a link to the competition's webpage:

<https://www.american.edu/soc/environmental-film/eco-comedy-film-competition.cfm>.

Gabriel's film, "Tire Swing", is about a young boy so desperate to stop climate change he disassembles his dad's car. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OsgaufM95IE&t=2s>.

Gabriel overcame many challenges to write, produce direct, and star in his film. As a result, he won \$500 and a plaque from the Nature Conservancy. Also, his film premiered at the Eco-Comedy Video Competition Awards Ceremony which was part of the D.C. Environmental Film Festival.

"Tire Swing" is the second film Gabriel has written, produced and directed. His first, "Fire Fliher", a stop motion animation and interview with a firefighter, won a Silver medal at the State level for the PTSA Reflections Competition. He also wrote, "Through Gabriel's Eyes", a short film about a boy who wants to buy a gun, but replace the bullets with seeds so they won't hurt anyone and will revitalize the environment.

"Through Gabriel's Eyes" premiered at the Stories of Hope Film Festival in Los Angeles in 2018 and screened again at the 2019 Front Range Film Festival. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=okOBSZAz1cA>.

Good job Gabriel! He is truly an inspiration for all of us! Gabriel will be entering the 3rd grade GT Center program at Devinny Elementary in the fall of 2019.

## 2019 GT Champions

The Jeffco Association for Gifted Children (JAGC) would like to congratulate the following Jeffco staff and students on their nominations for [2019 GT Champion of the year!](#) Their hard work in their respective roles in the district has stood out among their peers and shows their dedication to our gifted community. JAGC wants to recognize their talent and celebrate their hard work. The nominees and winner will be recognized in the upcoming [IAGC newsletter](#) and Chalk Talk.

Congratulations to the nominees and the Jeffco winner!

### **Nominees:**

Duncan Dotterer, GT STEAM Lab Teacher, Stevens Elementary School  
Amy Baker, Digital Teacher Librarian, West Jefferson Middle School  
Barb Grindle, 3rd Grade Teacher, Marshdale Elementary School  
Laurel Rogstad, 5th Grade GT Center Teacher, Coronado Elementary School  
Allison Olis, 5th Grade GT Center Teacher, Westridge Elementary School  
Marla Caviness-French, GT Resource Teacher  
Katherina Mook, 12th Grade GT Student, Wheat Ridge High School  
Lily Craddock, 6th Grade GT Student, Westridge Elementary School

### **Winner of the Inaugural IAGC GT Champion Award:**

Ginny Grimes, GT Resource Teacher

# 1st Annual Elementary School Hydrogen Fuel Cell Car Competition

The newly formed Foundation, FASE - Foundation for Advanced STEM Education, along with the TechForce Foundation and Horizon Educational sponsored and ran this event at Steven's Elementary on Saturday May 11th. Seven Elementary Schools from all around Jefferson County participated in the first of its kind Hydrogen Fuel Cell Car Competition for elementary students. Approximately 150-200 students were involved in this inaugural year!

The students were given initial hydrogen fuel cell kits to see how an alternative fuel could actually power a small car. Once the students learned the fundamentals, the real open ended hands-on learning and manufacturing began. Each student group had to take the "guts" of the mini hydrogen cars and insert them into their own chassis and bodies that they designed. These final, made from scratch, vehicles were then allowed to race for efficiency at their own schools. The winners at each school then assembled for the final competition at Steven's Elementary.

The hydrogen fuel cell kits were generously donated by FASE with the support of the TechForce Foundation. For more information, check out our [Facebook page](#).



## Collaboration between Dutch Creek Elementary and the Clyfford Still Museum

Through cross content collaboration at Dutch Creek and a multi-visit partnership with the Clyfford Still Museum students read The book *Love That Dog* and explored the question "what inspires poets, artists, and musicians and where can you see evidence of the inspiration in their work?"

Students then created abstract art, a soundtrap, and poem and reflecting on what inspired them and where you can see evidence of that inspiration in their own piece. Students and their families were bussed downtown and shared this work in a private viewing at the Clyfford Still Museum where these your good attests became art curators, sharing their works of Clyfford Still inspired art and teaching families about the artwork at the museum.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=391507675002943>

Contact Kristen Vanosdol!, Dutch Creek Instructional Coach for more information.

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