**Early Access**

Early Access to Kindergarten and first grade is for four and five-year-olds, respectively, as an exception to the normal age requirements per Board Policy JEB. This is for children who are highly gifted (97th percentile or higher) and who would benefit from acceleration. The early access application is open January 2, 2020-April 1, 2020. Please click [here](#) for a link to the early access module. For more information about early access please click [here](#).

---

**Parent Seminars, CogAT Info Night**

As an ongoing service to our GT community, the Jeffco Gifted and Talented department will be hosting a parent seminar on Monday, January 27th in the 5th Floor Board Room at the Jefferson County District Office. Please click [here](#) for more information about the evenings presentation. Jeffco GT will also host *How to Interpret the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)* for those who recently received data from either the 2nd grade universal screener or GT testing. Attend on either Dec 11 or 17. See this [flyer](#).

---

**Jeffco Virtual Academy Online GT Student Courses**

Registration for 2nd semester in [Jeffco’s Middle School Online GT Courses](#) opens DECEMBER 2nd! This program currently offers 7th & 8th grade core classes: GT Language Arts 7 and 8, GT Math 7/8 and Algebra 1, GT Science 7 and 8, and GT Social Studies 7 and 8. Classes are taught by certified GT teachers and offer the opportunity for GT students to participate in an engaging online curriculum that incorporates both the academic and social-emotional needs of gifted students. Families may work with JVA and their home schools in order to arrange for their gifted children to take one or more GT classes during their school day in their area(s) of strength. Please see our [website](#) for more information or feel free to contact Craig Walker ([Craig.Walker@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:Craig.Walker@jeffco.k12.co.us)) with additional questions.

---

**GT Advisory Council GTAC**

Our district GT Advisory Council (GTAC) had its meeting on December 2 -- thanks to those parents, students and educators who have volunteered for this vital committee! We explored the new options for secondary ALPs and discussed how we can manage our ALPs in a meaningful way. We will next focus on both the Jeffco Deeper Learning Model (JDLM) and potential impacts on what common GT expectations for all Jeffco schools should be moving forward. For more info on GTAC and a link to the notes from this meeting, see our [GTAC website](#).

---

**2020-21 EnrollJeffco Dates**

- Round 1 for the 2020-21 school year is Dec 10, 2019 - Jan 15, 2020
- Round 2 opens Jan 21, 2020
- Choice application offers will go out in late January
GT CHAMPION: GINNY GRIMES

Congratulations to the 2019 GT Champion, Ginny Grimes. Ginny is a Jeffco GT Resource Teacher (RT) who is the recipient of the Jeffco Association for Gifted Children's (JAGC) first annual GT Champion award. The GT Champion award recognizes those individuals whose contributions to Jeffco's gifted education community go above and beyond, demonstrating a deep understanding of the needs of gifted learners and working to meet their needs. Despite facing many personal challenges last year, Ginny dedicated herself to serving two GT Center schools as well as numerous other schools on her caseload. JAGC Vice-President Danielle Hicks presented Ginny with the award at a recent professional learning event in front of nearly 200 people in the GT community.

If you would like to nominate a GT Champion for the 2019-20 school year, see more information and the nomination form at https://www.jeffcogifted.org/gt-champion-award.html. There are separate nomination categories for Administrators, Teachers/School Staff Members, Communication/Suport Members and even Students! Kudos to Ginny and to JAGC for recognizing the commitment and dedication of individuals in the gifted education field!

10 Games to Improve EF Skills

Executive function skills are sometimes referred to as the CEO of the brain. These skills allow us to set goals, plan, and do the things that need to be done in order to achieve our goals. Executive function skills begin developing in early childhood and continue to grow and develop until the early twenties. Many students need help and support in developing their executive function skills. Luckily, there are many ways to help and support in developing these skills needed for success. One way is to play games! On this link, find 10 games that support the development of executive function skills. This visual comes from the blog Pathways to Success. To learn more about executive functioning, visit Understood.org.
Building Resiliency in Gifted Learners

GT Social-Emotional Learning expert Jenny Hecht presented at our Parent/Family Seminar on November 18 in the Ed Center Board Room. Over 120 people were in attendance, and received a great deal of information and strategies on meeting the social-emotional needs of gifted learners. You may see the slides for Jenny's presentation on “A Rising Tide Lifts All Ships: Building Resiliency and Creativity” here.

Westgate Receives Westerra Grant for Talent Pool

Congratulations to Jeffco GT Resource Teacher Matt Wilkinson, who applied for and received a Westerra Credit Union education grant for $480. The funds will go to supporting Talent Pool work at Westgate Elementary School, one of the schools on Matt's caseload.

The Talent Pool model seeks to better identify and serve high potential students among underrepresented populations, and this grant will help with resource to provide alternative assessments and programming resources.

Western Academic Talent Search - Center for Bright Kids

Center for Bright Kids offers summer programs and additional opportunities for gifted students throughout the school year. They also operate the Western Academic Talent Search (WATS), in which participants take the SAT, ACT or PSAT 8/9 examinations above their grade levels to evaluate their strengths, to gain experience, and to qualify for recognition and special programmes. Families needing verification of GT eligibility from Jeffco should contact gtinform@jeffco.k12.co.us. Deadlines are fast approaching, so register today!

JAGC NEWSLETTER

The Jeffco Association for Gifted Children (JAGC), an affiliate of our state GT organization, the Colorado Association for Gifted & Talented (CAGT, coloradogifted.org) has just release a new newsletter with great info for GT families. Check it out at jeffcogifted.org. Also, please join us at one of our upcoming meetings! JAGC will be rotating meetings at various schools throughout the district -- see the website for times and locations.