



jeffcopublicschools.org/programs/gifted_talented/



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An Evening with Emily Kircher-Morris

Event Details

We invite you to join us for a FREE virtual evening with world renowned Emily Kircher-Morris on [Wednesday, March 9th](#). The topic will be Helping Gifted Kids Manage “ALL THE FEELS”

About the presenter

Emily Kircher-Morris is the host of [The Neurodiversity Podcast](#), which explores topics related to gifted and neurodiverse individuals through their lifespan. She provides mental health counseling for gifted and 2e individuals in her private practice outside of St. Louis, Missouri. Prior to becoming a counselor, Emily worked as a teacher in gifted programming for elementary and middle school students. Emily has two recently published books: *Teaching Twice-Exceptional Students in Today's Classroom* (Free Spirit Publishing) and *Raising Twice-Exceptional Children: A Handbook for Parents of Neurodivergent Gifted Kids* (Prufrock Press).

See Emily's website: [The Neurodiversity Podcast](#).

Event Date and Time: This event will be available via zoom on Wednesday, March 9th - from 6:30-8:00 pm. Please RSVP and submit any questions for Emily Kircher-Morris by Tuesday, March 1, 2022 and submit questions in advance by completing [this form](#)

A Zoom link will be emailed to all who RSVP by 3:00pm on March 9th.

If you need **translation/interpretation services**, please complete the form by **February 28th**.



EARLY ACCESS



[Early Access to Kindergarten](#) for four-year-olds, 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 4, 2022-April 1, 2022. Please click here for a link to the early access module. For more information about early access please visit our [Early Access website](#).

SPARKS - Summer Enrichment Program

Once again, we are looking forward to enjoying another [SPARKS GT Enrichment Program](#) with our Jeffco gifted learners this year! Similar to last year, we will be offering a **1 week morning OR afternoon program** to stimulate and enrich GT students.

- June 6-10
- Wheat Ridge High School (tentative)
- Choose from *either*
 - AM classes: 8:30-10:30, *OR*
 - PM classes: 12:30-2:30
- All safety procedures (masks, symptom screening, distancing, etc.) will be followed
- Open to all **Jeffco identified GT students entering grades 1 through 8** in the 2021-22 school year

More information will be coming by the end of February. We will send a registration link and course options home to families of all students on an Advanced Learning Plan or in a GT Center by the end of February!

- Registration will be open **March 1-14**
- We will run a lottery for all registrations received by 11:59 pm on March 14
- Families will be notified of their registration status the week of March 18
- Registration will be re-opened after the lottery until classes are full
- Class fees will be due by **April 12**
 - Limited scholarships will be available for families in need (contact the GT office for the scholarship application) gtnform@jeffco.k12.co.us



GT Parent & Student Resource Page

Be sure to check out our [Student Opportunities webpage](#) for travel experiences, camps, resources, etc. Also, our [Parent Resource webpage](#) had information on upcoming & past parent seminars, presentations, and useful links for families of gifted learners. Finally, [JAGC's Summer Programs](#) page is a fantastic resource!

Family Learning Night

On January 26th, the GT Department held a family learning night. The department offered multiple learning opportunities. **Please see presentation resources from each session linked below:**

Early Access: Early Access to kindergarten is for 4 year olds, as an exception to the normal age requirements as per board policy JEB. Children who are highly gifted (97th percentile or higher) may benefit from early grade acceleration.

Executive Function: Executive Function builds your child's skills for both in-person and remote environments. Students learn strategies to advocate for their needs. We shared both classroom and home resources. These easy to use tools help build the habits necessary to be successful in life

Twice Exceptional: Set a course to identify and celebrate your child's strengths and "superpowers," to recognize their behavior as communication and identify signs of stress, and adopt some new tools and strategies to help your child to thrive!

GT 101: This session addressed how the department identifies and programs the gifted child within the district.

The ABGT 101:Cs of ALPs (Advanced Learning Plans): This session showed how we engage the Affective Behavioral, and Cognitive Domains to meet the needs of advanced learners in Jeffco. It was explained how ALP goals are set and monitored and how you can support the gifted child in your life.

Social Emotional Needs of Gifted Children: Parents learned how anxiety can mix with overexcitabilities, social challenges, and perfectionism. This session showed how to help children manage and develop effective coping skills.

Transitioning/Post-secondary Options: This session provided a smorgasbord of post-secondary options as well as methods for tracking meaningful communication with prospective schools, programs, and employers.



GT Mental Health Day

The Jeffco GT Department hosted a **GT Mental Health Day** event for all district mental health workers (counselors, school psychologists, social workers, social-emotional learning specialists), though we also had many teachers, administrators and central staff attend this virtual conference as well.

“Still Rising: Resilience in the Face of a Global Pandemic”

Jenny Hecht is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Certified Yoga Teacher with over 20 years of experience working with middle school and high school-aged youth and adults in a variety of settings, specializing in supporting the specific social-emotional needs of the gifted population. Her work with gifted individuals has extended to consultation and support for educational professionals who work with this population.



In addition to her clinical work, Jenny is a regional trainer for [Sources of Strength](#), a comprehensive wellness and resiliency program which seeks to provide the highest quality evidence-based prevention for suicide, violence, bullying and substance abuse by training, supporting, and empowering both peer leaders and caring adults to impact their world through the power of connection, hope, help and strength. She is also the Clinical Trainer and a Board Member of [Colie's Closet](#), a non-profit peer education organization whose mission is to educate students in Boulder Valley School District about depression and suicide with the goal of decreasing youth suicide.

Jenny lives in Lafayette with her husband of 21 years and their 15-year-old daughter, as well as several furry creatures.

Jenny Hecht

“Lighting the Fire: Motivations and Underachievement in Gifted and 2e Learners”



Emily Kircher-Morris, M.A., M.Ed., LPC, inspired by her own experiences as a twice exceptional (2e) learner, is dedicated to supporting 2e children—including her own—in a way that she wasn't during her academic years. She has taught in gifted classrooms, has been a school counselor, and is now in private practice as a licensed professional counselor, where she specializes in helping gifted and 2e kids.

Emily is the president and founder of the Gifted Support Network and speaks at statewide and national conferences. She also hosts The Neurodiversity Podcast, which explores parenting, counseling techniques, and best practices for enriching the lives of high ability people. [Emily Kircher-Morris, MA, M.Ed., LPC](#)

Emily Kircher-Morris

“Why the executive function expert recommends ALL schools be trauma-informed and what we can do NOW”

Seth Perler is an executive function coach, educator, and vlogger who helps struggling, outside-the-box, neurodiverse learners turn it around in a baffling system so they can launch a successful future. With extensive experience working with 2e students, Seth is also an expert in understanding student resistance, the purposes it serves, and helping students to experience success in their developing executive function skills. [SethPerler.com](#) is full of resources for parents, teachers and professionals, and his [ExecutiveFunctionSummit.com](#) is an excellent resource.



Seth Perler

“IT’S ABOUT TIME: You can’t manage it if you don’t understand it”



Suzanne Phillips Keeley, MA CCC-SLP earned undergraduate degrees in Communication Disorders & Speech Science and in Psychology from the University of Colorado and received her Masters Degree in Speech-Language Pathology from Northwestern University. Suzanne is a licensed speech-language pathologist with over 30 years of experience successfully treating those with executive function disorders and differences. She is the author of “Write This Down: Making Your Student Planner Work For You”, “The Source for Executive Function Disorders” and developed [GOSTRONG](#), a unique tool to maximize executive function skills. Suzanne's innovative work has led her to be a frequent speaker at conferences, schools and parent groups across the country. Her private practice is located in Wilmette, Illinois.

Suzanne Phillips Keeley

First Lego Festival at Stevens Elementary



On Saturday December 4th, 2021 students in the GT Center Program at Stevens, grades 2-5 participated in the FIRST Lego Festival. [FIRST](#) is an organization that promotes engagement with Science and Technology concepts at an early age. They have partnered with Lego Education to create FIRST Lego. For the 2021-2022 season, the theme is called "Cargo Connect", kids are tasked with making the transport of goods safer, more efficient and eco-friendly. Students in the GT program at Stevens explored the interconnectedness of global shipping, supply chain problems, containerization, automation, the challenges of delivering goods to remote areas, and other ways that shipping impacts our world. Students came up with solutions to these problems such as solar panels installed on shipping containers, drone

delivery of medical supplies to remote areas, sensors on bikes, cars, and trucks so that they can talk to each other, and ways to reduce use of packaging materials.

Please take a look at the [video](#) of the event from Dec 4, 2021.

GT Champion Award

Congratulations to the 2021 GT Champions!

Please join us to celebrate our gifted and talented heroes! The GT leaders in our district, including staff, teachers, and students work hard to provide the best learning practice for our gifted communities. [Jeffco Association for Gifted Children \(JAGC\)](#) recognizes those who are making exemplary effort for our GT students with the GT Champion award.

GT Teacher/Staff Champion

Jenn Archibald, Kyffin Elementary

GT Administrator Champion

Roger Dowd, GT Dept. Director

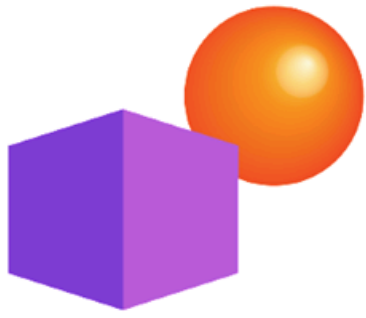
GT Honorary Award

Penelope Heinigk

Congratulations to all of the GT Champion nominees:

Shaunna Abling, Creighton Middle School; **Jenn Archibald**, Kyffin Elementary; **Connie Brown**, GT Resource Teacher (retired); **Diana Caldeira**, GT Department; **Mandy Cummings**, Westridge Elementary; **Roger Dowd**, GT Department; **Kristan Eisenschenk**, Stevens Elementary; **Caroline Gaker**, Evergreen Middle School; **Penelope Heinigk**, GT Resource Teacher; **Ben Hershelman**, GT Resource Teacher & SPARKS Principal; **Travis Lay**, Everitt Middle School (now North Arvada MS); **Lisa Lee**, Wheat Ridge High School (now GT Resource Teacher); **Allison Olis**, Westridge Elementary; **Colleen Owens**, principal, Green Mountain High School, **Michael Real**, Arvada High School





DESTINATION IMAGINATION®

Students will be showcasing their creativity and innovation at the Jeffco Destination Imagination Tournament on March 5, 2022, at Jefferson Junior/Senior High School. After months of preparations, 44 teams, from all around our district, will present their creative solutions to a number of STEAM-based (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) challenges. Teams will then move on to the State Tournament which will be held on April 2, 2022, at the Auraria Campus in Denver. We wish the best of luck to all of our teams! We are so proud of them and very excited to see their solutions!

Destination Imagination is an international, project-based educational program that encourages innovation, teamwork and creative problem solving. Students choose one of seven different open-ended DI challenges and work together in teams to plan, create and present their solution.



CONFIDENCE



**CREATIVE &
CRITICAL
THINKING**



**TEAM
BUILDING**



PERSEVERANCE



**PROBLEM
SOLVING**



**RISK
TAKING**



**PROJECT
MANAGEMENT**

For additional information check out our websites at
www.dicolorado.com and www.destinationimagination.org

The Jefferson Association for Gifted Children (JAGC) is a nonprofit organization providing leadership and support to families and educators of advanced learners in Jefferson County, Colorado. Get involved with JAGC today, and serve on JAGC's board – [**nominations are now open!**](#)



JEFFERSON COUNTY ASSOCIATION
for gifted children



Colorado Student Leaders Institute

COSLI Wants You to Apply for the 2022 Summer Program!

Colorado Student Leaders Institute (COSLI) is looking for amazing student applicants (9th-11th graders next year) for the 2022 program from July 10 to August 6, 2022! All application details can be found [here](#), and will be accepted until April 30, 2022.

Colorado Student Leaders Institute (COSLI) is a state-legislated, summer residential program on the University of Colorado Denver campus. For one month each summer, Colorado's best and brightest students, chosen from a competitive pool of applicants, live and study on the campus and earn three hours of college credit. Students choose one of two majors: International Social Studies or STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Math), and explore diverse topics through a lecture series by university professors and 3 hands-on projects--Colorado Social Problem Lab, Short-Term Business Lab, and National History Day.

COSLI students do not have to be formally designated as gifted and talented students, but they must demonstrate through their application that they meet the academic rigors that the program requires. At least 50% of our students must be eligible for free and reduced lunch and/or be first generation college students.

COSLI prepares students for college by fostering leadership, independence, innovativeness, initiative, critical thinking, and creativity.

For additional details, please visit:

costudentleaders.org or email costudentsleaders@gmail.com



There are many opportunities to learn and get involved at NAGC. [NAGC](#) works to provide you with the tools you need to help your child succeed.