

Gifted and Talented Newsletter September 2018

Dates to Remember

Every Friday: Rebecca not at work

CogAT Testing Dates

9/4, 9/5, 9/7: 3rd testing at 10:30; K-1 testing at 12:00

9/11, 9/12, 9/14: 6th testing at 1:10; 2nd testing at 10:30 and 12:00

9/15: Depth and Complexity Conference @ Wheat Ridge HS

9/25: Rebecca out of building till 12:00 for GT training/CogAT drop off

9/27: Creative Identification meeting @ EE

Who are the Gifted?

Each month I will share a little tidbit about this population and what makes them tick.

So what are the main characteristics of the gifted? Surprisingly, many of the traits are what you would expect out of gifted students. BUT, there are many traits that muddy the waters, so to speak, making it difficult to identify these students. Your constant chatter boxes, the students that need to move ALL THE TIME, or the over sensitive student. Any one of these traits could be a part of a gifted child.

Check out the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) - [Traits of Giftedness](#)
Google "Traits of Gifted Children" and see what you find.

Just remember, these kids aren't gifted in just the area of identification. It is who they are. They will think differently in all their subjects, not just the ones in which they are identified.

The first few weeks of PRIDE our 4th - 6th will be discussing what it means to be gifted. We want these kids to accept their gifts, nurture them and help them grow.

They will be exploring the character traits of the gifted and identifying which traits best describe them.

<http://www.davidsongifted.org/Search-Database/entry/A10920>

14 Things gifted students want teachers to know about them

Curiosity - The Underpinnings of Creativity

How do we foster creativity in our classrooms and help nurture it in our students? It begins with a question. It begins with curiosity. We are all pretty good at asking our students the higher level Bloom's questions, but are our kids good asking quality questions? Research is showing, NO. In the 4 linked documents, Ian Byrd, has created a Curiosity Guide. Some great food for thought. Please take the time to read (fast readings).

- [Lack of curiosity in classrooms](#)
- [Creating a safe space for curiosity](#)
- [Balancing routines and novelty](#)
- [Modeling Curiosity](#)

This year's **season of Puzzlements** has already started! If you're not on the list, [sign up here](#) for the free mailer. You'll find a redesign featuring a new, hand-lettered logo!

Teacher Resources

Each month I will share resources that can be used with your gifted population as well as your whole class. Many of these resources will come from the Gifted Guru: Lisa Van Gemert (I heard her speak at the summer sessions in June) and Ian Byrd.

Classroom Management

Once you open a link, click on any of the bold titles for additional information. Please pay special attention to the Long Term Success links - most critical with our gifted

students.

1. [First Levels](#) – How can we carefully set up the first few experiences of the school year to better prepare our students for success?
2. [Long Term Success](#) – There's more to students' success than their academic improvements this year, or what classes they get into next year, or even what college they eventually go to. Let's think *really* long term.

Differentiation

Click on the links to learn more:

[To Differentiate: Lower Floors and Raise Ceilings](#)

When you're planning a task that is for a wide range of students, the terms "floor" and "ceiling" are easy shortcuts to increase the range of success for all kids.

[Complexity Is A Good Thing](#)

Differentiation is all about balancing the complexity of a task with the skill of the learner.

[Bad Behavior or Lack of Complexity?](#)

Differentiation means being aware of both a student's skill and the complexity of a task. And it's easier to adjust a task in the short term than to change a student's skill.

Perfectionism/Mindset

[Perfectionism](#) is an abstract concept that can take on many forms, healthy and unhealthy. Healthy perfectionism leads to achievement and productivity through a child's strong self-confidence and motivation. These children are motivated and goal oriented. Unhealthy perfectionism manifests itself in unnecessary stress and anxiety which can lead to depression and other serious mental health issues. Learners displaying unhealthy perfectionism display procrastination and task avoidance. The goal of teachers, parents, and support staff is to help students develop strategies to move them from unhealthy to healthy perfectionism. This article helps parents and teachers better understand the reasons behind perfectionism, the types of unhealthy perfectionism and how to help learners develop more positive coping strategies. With support, these unhealthy orientations can be overcome.

Reading

I shared these with a parent and thought I would share them with you.

[10 Imaginative scenes for teaching children to visualize as they read](#)

[12 books recommended for bright 4th - 5th kids](#)

[Books to challenge gifted 5th graders](#)

[14 books recommended for bright 5th - 6th kids](#)

[20 books recommended for bright 2nd - 3rd kids](#)

[Blog](#) with great suggestions and background information

[Gifted Readers and Reading Instruction](#)

[Hoagies Gifted Education](#) (contains more links to book lists than you would care to have 😊)

Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns. Share with me areas you would like to learn more about (social/emotional needs, how to differentiate, compact instruction, and so on) and I will do my best to find that information.

Rebecca Collins

rccollins@dcsdk12.org