

SOUTHWESTERN COLORADO REGION - Gifted Education (970) 769-2187

Special Interest Articles

Program Plan

Gifted Education and
Technology

Important Dates

Jan 8, 2008
San Juan BOCES
GTAC Meeting
3:30-5:30 Bayfield

Jan. 30-31, 2008 Gifted
Education Directors'
Meeting, Doubletree
Hotel, Westminster

Feb. 6, 2008
SW BOCES Gifted Ed.
Meeting, Cortez

Feb. 21, 2008
Legislative Day and
Regional Spelling Bee
Dolores

Feb. 22, 2008
Beyond Giftedness
Conference
Donna Ford
"Creating Culturally
Responsive Classrooms
for Gifted Students"
Denver

April 24-25, 2008
Gifted Education
Directors' Meeting
Denver

April 30, 2008
SW BOCES Gifted Ed.
Meeting, Cortez

NAGC 2008
Oct. 29-Nov. 2
Tampa, Florida

Betsey Krill
SW GERC - Gifted Education
Regional Consultant
bkkrill@sjboces.org



Advanced by Design
REACH-Out and Nurture
Exceptional Abilities

GIFTED EDUCATION DIRECTORS' MEETING — January 30-31

The Gifted Education Directors' Meeting will be held on January 30 and 31, 2008 at the Doubletree-Westminster Hotel in the Metro area. The theme, *Advanced by Design: Gifted Students Moving Forward*, will be addressed through speakers and breakout sessions addressing the needs of underserved gifted students. On Wednesday, Margie Kitano from California State University will talk about programming; Tonya Moon and Marcia Gentry will join the group on Thursday to talk about proportionality and cluster grouping. Please contact Betsey Krill for more registration information.

Cluster grouping is an evidence-based practice in gifted education whereby groups of three to ten identified gifted students are placed together in a mixed-ability classroom with a teacher who has had training in how to teach exceptionally capable students. The reason for cluster grouping is to differentiate curriculum, instruction and assessment. Positive effects were also found on the achievement of all students in treatment schools. The original research study has been duplicated with similar results. For more information about cluster grouping go to www.nagc.org or www.gifted.uconn.edu/nrcgt.html.

Gifted Education Regional Meeting — Bring a Friend!

The next Gifted Education Regional Meeting is scheduled for December 6, from 8:30-3:00 in Cortez. The meeting will be held in the Board Room at 121 E. First Street. The agenda is the result of input from regional gifted education practitioners:

- Regional and District Updates
 - Budget, Identification in Non-academic Areas, On-Line Classes
- Advanced Learning Plan Goal Writing
 - By School Level, By Content Area
- State Performance Plan Draft Review
- Statute and Application Guidelines Review
 - Common Regional Needs 2008-2011
- Overview of "Best-Practice"
- Differentiation Presentation – Tara Verenna
- Brain-Teasers, Games and Humor in the Classroom – Mark Mishou

Lunch will be on your own. Please feel welcome to bring colleagues from your district/school. Limited funds will be available for substitute reimbursement. Don't forget to "blog" and reflect after the meeting for Adams State Credit!

PROGRAM PLAN

Each Administrative Unit (AU) is required to develop a four-year plan that will be due April 30, 2008. The plan includes how the unit identifies and programs for gifted students aligned with the advanced learning plan (ALP) of a particular student population. When we consider the learning needs of students, we will need to describe authentic ways to address the five categories of giftedness. The Program Plan needs to be based upon the combined resources of the AU and state supplemental funds. Other community or grant resources might also be available and considered as a means to address the wide range of learning needs. Program plans should not prescribe programming beyond the means of the administrative unit's resources. With shrinking budgets, we will need to work collaboratively with parents, enhance the skills of classroom teachers to differentiate instruction, and consider how to access community resources.

Talented art students may need to be paired with working artists. Creative students may need access to biographies and fiction of creative people for role modeling. Students with leadership potential need to be provided with mentors and authentic leadership experiences in the school and community. In the classroom, teachers can provide students with learning experiences based on "multiple-intelligences" models and allow students to practice problem-solving and reflective inquiry.

BOOKS

Best Practices in Gifted Education – An Evidence-Based Guide, Ann Robinson, Ph.D., Bruce M. Shore, Ph.D., Donna L. Enersen, Ph.D., Prufrock Press Inc. 2007.

Parenting Gifted Kids – Tips for Raising Happy and Successful Children, James R. Delisle, Ph.D., Prufrock Press Inc. 2006.

Critical Issues and Practices in Gifted Education: What the Research Says, Carolyn M. Callahan, Ph.D., Jonathan Plucker, Ph.D. Prufrock Press, 2007.

A Love for Learning, C. Whitney & G. Hirsch, Great Potential Press, 2007.

GIFTED EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Smart-Boards, or interactive white boards, are a new piece of technology currently found in many classrooms in our region. These boards allow students and teachers to manipulate objects on the screen. More than a visual-aide, this technology allows students to transfer data, combine text, sound and video images. For example, geography lessons, combined with programs such as Google-Earth, can illustrate "regions" more effectively than pictures and text. Weather systems, voting patterns and public opinion can be viewed in "real time." Students can work with a mentor on a special topic, hear a lecture, or work in cooperative groups with other students hundreds of miles away. World events, as they occur, can be discussed with people all over the world. This dynamic tool can help students become independent researchers, problem-solvers and critical thinkers.

When using technology, students need explicit instruction in how to be critical consumers of available information. Sources must be evaluated, placed in context, and information must be analyzed and interpreted. When using technology to conduct research, students must be able to identify and sort through unreliable or biased information. The result will be research projects that are more thorough and in-depth.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Colorado Department of Education webpage for gifted education is under revision. Watch as the website begins to offer more resources and tools for teachers and parents.

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/gt/index.htm>



LINKS FOR INSPIRATION

NAGC Annual Holiday Toy List – 2007

<http://www.nagc.org/uploadedFiles/PHP/Toylist%202007.pdf>
www.2enewsletter.com
www.twicegifted.net

FUTURE ARTICLES

State Performance Plan 2008-2011
Regional Needs for Gifted Education