



Mt. Evans BOCES

Clear Creek RE1 - Gilpin RE1- Platte Canyon #1 Clear Creek RE1 - Gilpin RE1- Platte Canyon #1

Strong Partnerships Ensuring Success for Exceptional Students **Spring 2017 Newsletter**

Welcome to the first edition of the quarterly Mt. Evans BOCES' gifted and talented newsletter.

Mt. Evans BOCES' Philosophy

The philosophy of the Mt Evans BOCES' Gifted and Talented Program is to provide an educational environment that recognizes the unique talents and intellectual, academic, and social/emotional needs of gifted students. Students who possess exceptional gifts and talents should be granted the direction, time, encouragement, and resources to maximize their potential. Thus the BOCES is committed to consistent and effective communication with staff and families regarding identification, programming, Advanced Learning Plan (ALP) development, and student achievement.

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Gifted and Talented Staff

The gifted and talented staff for the Mt. Evans BOCES and its member districts are:

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Gifted and Talented Field Trips

Legislative Day was held on February 23rd at the State Capitol. This event was sponsored by the

Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented (CAGT).

Emma Sander, a student at Clear Creek High School

attended this year with the district's gifted coordinator,

Heidi Lupinacci. Emma and Mrs. Lupinacci were able to

witness how both the State Senate and House of Representatives

sessions operated. They took a tour of our historic state capitol

building, sat in the gallery during a finance committee

session, and toured the state courts building; they



were able to sit behind the bench where our State

Supreme Court Judges sit! Most importantly, along with many other gifted students and their teachers, they were able to lobby our local representatives and senators for the needs of gifted students in our state.

On March 9, a group of 9th and 10th graders took a field trip to the School of Mines in Golden. The intent of this trip was to expose the students to the college educational environment and the application process.

On March 13th, a group of 1st through 4th graders participated in the Pioneer Arts program at the Arvada Center for the Arts. The two interactive sessions were Clay Cabins and Mystery of Rebekah. In the Mystery of Rebekah, the students toured in the Arvada History Museum's Haines family cabin, built in 1864. Rebekah, a girl from the 1800s suddenly appeared to reclaim her personal property and offered a firsthand look at pioneer life through stories, games, and artifacts.



The next scheduled field trip is the Games Competition for the 6th-8th graders at Clear Creek Middle School in the Media Center on May 9th. During the school year, the students have played individual and group strategy games. These games foster critical and creative thinking to promote healthy competition that fosters a growth mindset, and provide an avenue for the students to work with other gifted students.

The last scheduled event, on May 15th, is for the 5th-6th graders with a few slots available for 7th graders from each district. They will be heading to the Colorado History Center. Students will discover the Colorado Water Quest From Mesa Verde to the Dust Bowl, discuss the important role water has played in Colorado history—and the environmental challenges we face today. Students will work in small groups to explore History Colorado exhibits, solve STEM and geography challenges, and evaluate the ways different communities have used water.

Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG)

The BOCES is currently offering discussion groups for parents/guardians. This discussion group provides a forum for sharing experiences with other parents/guardians of gifted children to gain a better understanding of giftedness. It gives parents/guardians the opportunity to look at their child's behavior from new perspectives and helps them gain insights into their children's motivations and capabilities. If interested, you may register through this link: or contact your district's gifted coordinator.

<https://goo.gl/forms/xjskY2QYqQWglwyE3>

Another option for parents and guardians is the online GT University. Purpose: In each course parents will gain support, a deeper understanding of your gifted children, and strategies to help your gifted children thrive, and connect with other GT parents. The online course options are:

- ★ GT 101;
- ★ Supporting Emotional Needs;
- ★ Visual Thinkers and;
- ★ Twice Exceptional Learners.

The courses are comprised of readings, explorations, discussion boards, and opportunities to ask the facilitator questions directly. Platform: Schoology (You will need an email address to sign up for a free Schoology account at schooly.com.) There are no grades and there is no pressure to participate if you

would rather take a more passive role. Registration can be completed at: livingminds.net/parent.university.html

Mt. Evans BOCES' Website

There is an Events tab under gifted education on the Mt. Evans BOCES' website with events for families and students at :

<https://mtevboces.com/gifted-education/>

Also on the website is information on the definition of and characteristics of the gifted, gifted identification, programming, resources, and Early Access along with GT staff contact information. .

Program Evaluation Surveys

Each year, beginning with 2016-2017, the BOCES conducts an evaluation of the gifted program. In order to do this, we need parent, student, and educator input. Surveys have been developed and will be sent via email the week of April 24th. If you would prefer a paper copy of the survey, please contact your district's gifted coordinator. Survey results will be posted on the Mt. Evans BOCES Gifted Education Website by June 1, 2017.

Areas of Gifted Identification

The BOCES is currently developing processes for the implementation of the expanded areas (as defined by state law) listed below for gifted and talented identification. The identification process involves the student development of a portfolio with performances and/or products highlighted, normed assessments, and a review of behavioral characteristics that indicate talent ability. If you have questions about these areas, please contact your district's gifted coordinator.

12.01(16)(c) Creative or Productive Thinking-
Definition Creative or productive thinking is exceptional capability or potential in mental processes (e.g., critical thinking, creative problem solving, humor, independent/original thinking, and/or products, etc.).

12.01(16)(d) Leadership Abilities-Definition
Leadership is the exceptional capability or potential to influence and empower people (e.g., social

perceptiveness, visionary ability, communication skills, problem solving, inter and intra-personal skills and a sense of responsibility, etc.).

12.01(16)(d)(ii)

Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Musical, Dance, or Psychomotor Abilities-Definition Visual arts, performing arts, musical, dance or psychomotor abilities are exceptional capabilities or potential in talent areas (e.g., art, drama, music, dance, body awareness, coordination and physical skills, etc.).

District Gifted Programming



Clear Creek: The gifted students in Clear Creek are continuing to learn and grow! The students had a wonderful time when they visited the Arvada Center- where they learned about the pioneer era in Colorado and the School of Mines- where they took a tour of the college, getting an idea of what college life and learning are like today. The High School and Middle School students have recently reflected on their ALP goals. The students are making great progress and have provided some fabulous insights about their successes, challenges, and ongoing needs. At the elementary level, students are working on higher level thinking skills, higher order logic and problem solving skills, and how they can be resilient

pathfinders at home, at school and in their community. All of the students are building upon their unique gifts, and shine brightly within our schools every day.

Gilpin County School District:

At Gilpin the gifted coordinator and school counselor have offered the 3rd-9th grade gifted students a stress and test anxiety class to help alleviate any stress they may feel before State Testing begins. They are also in the middle of a book study with the middle school gifted girls, where the school counselor and gifted coordinator are reading and discussing "See Jane Win for Girls" by Dr. Sylvia Rimm. All Advanced Learning Plans (ALPs) have been reported on for 3rd quarter report cards.

Platte Canyon School District:

Deer Creek Elementary students enjoy working on "I Wonder" passion projects; using the Design Thinking model, students come up with a question or topic to pursue, pitch their idea to classmates for feedback, continue the research process, and then present their product or creative display of knowledge. We have also been addressing topics from the book, *The Gifted Kids' Survival Guide*, by Judy Galbraith; we took personal inventory quizzes identify strength areas in our multiple intelligences. Students have also been participating in strategy and cooperative learning games added to the repertoire of enrichment activities.

Fitzsimmons Middle School: FMS students started a class called Passion Projects in October. Our first project was a community-based problem to be solved using STEAM concepts for a competition called Samsung Solve for Tomorrow; students chose to address the needs of veterans in the community and were state finalists in this competition! Current passion projects are being developed in the school's new makerspace where students construct and explore individual interests such as the arts in education, extensions of curriculum from other core classes, community-based problem solving, and other inquiries. Every Wednesday, students practice brain and strategy games to increase cognitive abilities. Affective Discussion groups have begun for all age levels, and high school students completed a survey identifying popular topics - Risk Taking, Organization and Study Skills, Perfectionism, Values, College Planning, and Games Day.

