

GIFTED EDUCATION NEWS

October 2015, Gifted Education Coordinators and Communities

Featured Article Resource:

From Education Week

Advice for New Gifted Education Specialists

By Tamara Fisher Jan. 14, 2013

Welcome to the best job on Earth! Whatever route you took to land here, I'm glad you've landed. Some of us aimed to be here. Others were re-routed. Still others have turned a detour into a permanent location. I predict that you will soon discover this to be a delightfully thought-provoking, fascinating, engaging, enlightening, and fulfilling job. I love it dearly. But it does come with many challenges unique to the job. The difficult parts of this job are ones that others won't see and/or won't understand. My aim here is to offer some insights from my many years as a Gifted Education Specialist. Perhaps lessons from my experiences can save you a bit of the heartache! :o)

...in no particular order:

- 1) **Connect with others who do what you do.** Being a Gifted Education Specialist is an often lonely, misunderstood undertaking. We are frequently the only one in our school, district, town, or (as in my case) county who do what we do. You will need a support network of others who "get it" and speak the same language, and you may have to look farther than locally to find it. Join your local, state, and national gifted education associations. Attend gifted education conferences where you can meet people who will become a part of your network. Utilize social networking. On the days when you have a question or need to vent or want to share a success, it will be immeasurably helpful to have even a small handful of people to call upon.

For the rest of the article, click this link:

[Education Week Article](http://mobile.edweek.org/c.jsp?item=http%3a%2f%2fapi.edweek.org%2fv1%2fblog%2f44%2f%3fuuid%3d30091&cid=25920011) (If the link will not work, use: <http://mobile.edweek.org/c.jsp?item=http%3a%2f%2fapi.edweek.org%2fv1%2fblog%2f44%2f%3fuuid%3d30091&cid=25920011>)

"Where the gifted child drifts in the school unrecognized, working chronically below his capacity (even though young for his grade), he receives daily practice in habits of idleness and daydreaming. His abilities never receive the stimulus of genuine challenge, and the situation tends to form in him the expectation of an effortless existence. -Leta Stetter Hollingworth

Upcoming events:

Florida Association for the Gifted (FLAG)

Gifted Legislative Day

State Capital, Tallahassee,

October 21st,

starting at 10:00 a.m.

in room 28 HOB.



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Exciting News from the Districts:

2015 Collaborative Curriculum

Challenge Grant Recipients

Four districts are receiving Challenge Grant funding this year to work on projects to support and inspire gifted students in Florida!

Jefferson County: CATS (Creative & Academically Talented Students) Chronicle

Hillsborough/Pinellas Counties: Advancing Mathematics Performance 2

Volusia County: Tech Tools for Gifted Teenagers

Congratulations to these districts!

Everyone else can start thinking about projects they can create and use to apply for grants in the near future including the Challenge Grant.

Information about the 2016 Challenge Grant will be available in late spring or summer.

QUESTION BANK:

I would like to know what criteria other counties are using to determine eligibility for Plan B students. We use the Torrance Creative Positives check list and are looking at other options. Thank you.

Please send answers to Kathleen.Casper@fldoe.org with a subject of "Question Bank Answer." I will share them with the district that submitted the question. Thank you!

What makes an Exemplary Gifted Teacher?

Many Hillsborough County School District gifted teachers responded to that question. Here are some quotes from several of their responses:

"I believe that all children have a right to learn in a manner that is most conducive and challenging to them. I am a strong supporter of differentiating the curriculum to meet the diverse needs of gifted learners. Gifted learners are children who think and act differently and approach problems in different ways." Monika Schuler, Lomax Magnet Elementary School

"It is critical to constantly look for students to screen and try to educate staff members of the various nature and needs of gifted students. We want to continue to diversify and increase the number of students in our program." Ashley Patamasank, Knights Elementary School

"Enriching students has been my life's quest. Students are eager to rise to the challenges we set forth, and I'm eager to offer those challenges." Dr. Patricia Sanders, Randall Middle School

"Today's a busy day, no time for breaks. We have a special luncheon with the school's guidance counselor. I've invited my gifted students to come to the media center to discuss social-emotional issues.... We address their concerns and promise to hold additional workshops to discuss solutions (I also shared the list of concerns with parents and homeroom teachers." Steve Haberin, Sam Rampello Downtown Partnership School

"We come to gifted class to use our brain power and put our unique skills to use!" This is a quote from the mission statement that my gifted students wrote last year and live by to this day!" Karen Beck, Bryan Elementary School

"I love going to school because to me it is a place where my students teach me everyday. They have taught me to keep an open mind and not underestimate their potential. I look at my students as individuals. I treat my students as I wish my own children were treated at school. If they are having a hard day, I try to take a few minutes to listen so that they can be ready to learn for the rest of the day." Maggie Aldana, Thonotosassa Elementary School