

Gifted Education Newsletter



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EHS students attend live senatorial debate

Six Elizabeth High School students were literally front and center at the senatorial debate between incumbent Michael Bennet (Democrat) and Daryl Glenn (Republican) on October 11, at the History Colorado Center. Gabby Wagner, Caden Farmer, Zane Bauerle, Tate Thompson and Scott Portsche were guests of Channel 9 News. Amelia Lindsey attended as part of her involvement in Inspire Colorado. These students were six of the 12 audience members younger than 30. What did students learn from attending this debate? Gabby


Wagner had this to say: “The debate was an overall great experience that gave me a real opportunity to see news filming happen live. I learned that you really need to be involved and learn about who is running before making a decision when voting. Even one debate makes all the difference.” Zane Bauerle also thought seeing the debate was a good experience. He learned what to look for in a debate like who won, candidates’ body language, what they did before running for office and if they whine. Sponsor, Leanne Cook, wish-




Amelia Lindsey and Michael Bennet

es to thank 9 News for their generosity in inviting the students to share in the senatorial debate.


The debate link is <http://www.9news.com/news/local/politics/bennet-glenn-battle-in-only-senate-tv->



Over Time



Details



Unanswered Questions

Parent meeting scheduled for December 5, 2016

All parents of identified gifted and talent pool students are invited to attend an informational meeting December 5, 2016 at the Elizabeth Middle School library from 5:30-7 p.m. The agenda is provided so

you can come and go as it best meets your needs.
 5:30—What can we expect overtime— Review of the district 2016-20 program plan for gifted education
 6:00—Give me the details: An

introduction to the Depth & Complexity Framework being implemented in classrooms across the district
 6:30-7:00—Q & A: What unanswered questions do you still have about gifted education?

Get outside enrichment opportunities on your calendar



Zipline activity during Ultimate Scavenger Hunt

Secondary Students can attend the Ultimate Scavenger Hunt 3-day retreat for grades 7-12. This event brings students from Colorado’s north and eastern plains together with experts to think about big ideas, network and collaborate with gifted peers through physical and mental problem solving that often require educated risks outside their comfort zones. Events are held at mountain retreats and colleges around

the state. **May 30-June 1— Save the date.**

Elementary Students are invited to the Ultimate Celebration twice a year. This regional event gets students grades 3-6 together to interact with like-ability peers and explore topics led by Colorado experts from a variety of fields. **Feb 17 in Sterling— Save the date.**

Elizabeth offers a summer

week long STEAM Camp for gifted and talent pool students grades 2-5. **June 5-9— Save the date.**

Students grades 3-9 identified as gifted are invited to participate in the Western Academic Talent Search through the Center for Bright Kids. WATS enables these academically talented students to take the ACT, SAT, or PSAT 8/9 test at a much earlier age.

Middle school STEM extension to fly in November

Of the 20 fastest growing careers, 15 of them require a background in math or science.
@NMSI

The Elizabeth Middle School gifted students will be taking a field trip to iFLY Denver on Thursday December 8, 2016. iFLY Denver is located in Lone Tree and is billed as an indoor skydiving adventure. This interactive STEM presentation will include a physics demonstration in the wind

tunnel, a classroom experiment that compares students’ predicted and measured wind tunnel speeds, flying instruction and safety training, and flying time with one-on-one supervision from a highly-trained and certified instructor. The cost of the three and a half hour adven-

ture will be discounted by a fund raiser students held at the cross country regional event on October 1, 2016, which reduced the cost by \$15 per student. The 30 students and their advisor, Julie Reese, will have pre and post field trip activities to enhance their learning.



Teachers learn how to think & teach with depth & complexity

Icons and prompts from the Depth & Complexity Framework are used in classrooms to raise the level of thinking in all students. This project, from the state office of gifted education, provides training and support materials for teachers to train other teach-

ers in their schools. As shown in the picture to the left, Jacque Love, Leanne Cook, Lynette Metherd and Lori Williams-Martin became teacher facilitators this summer, and conducted multiple trainings in their schools first semester. The icons prompt

students to focus their thinking when answering questions, reading text, solving problems or carrying on a discussion. These prompts become a student’s mental “thinking toolbox” to support deep and complex thinking throughout a lifetime.

New rules require updated identification process

The district continues to refine the gifted education identification process to comply with new state rules. These refinements include:

- The use of a body of evidence to ensure that students are recognized as gifted through a variety of data points so no one test keeps a child from being identified.
- Administering a universal

screening at grades 2 and 6 using the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) to provide a cognitive data point for gifted identification as well as direct instruction in the classroom.

- Forming a talent pool of students who show advanced potential, but do not as yet have the required qualifying data for

gifted identification.

These students receive gifted programming to determine if it meets their needs, which could provide opportunities for the student to demonstrate achievement at qualifying levels for identification.

- Next steps include implementing processes for identifying students in the talent areas.

It is not enough to have a good mind; the main thing is to use it well.

– Rene Descartes

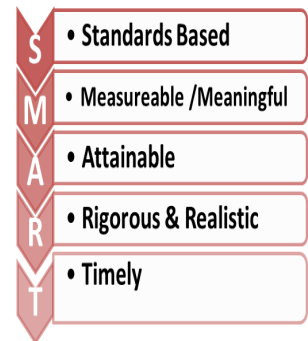
Changes in programming affect ALPs

Last year, parents, teachers and administrators completed a survey about gifted programming. Based on those results, changes have been made related to Advanced Learning Plans.

- Gifted and talent pool students grades 3-8 are

grouped together for math and language arts to receive instruction using best practices in gifted education. This eliminates the need for students to do additional work to meet their ALP goals.

- Gifted middle school students meet daily with their gifted liaison to work on individualized ALP goals.
- Gifted high school students have a seminar class that incorporates their ALP goals.



ALPs are written as SMART goals.

EHS offers new class for identified gifted students

Did you know Elizabeth High School offers an enrichment class for gifted students? Curriculum for this class has centered on leadership skills by studying Dwight D. Eisenhower, Oprah Winfrey, Thurgood Marshall and Maya Lin. Susan Gustin from the Universi-

ty of Colorado-Denver was a guest lecturer on Maya Lin. The Senatorial Debate was a serendipitous event that addressed the concept of leadership.

Students will begin research for National History Day in mid-November. National His-

tory projects will be completed in January for competition in February.

Ending the school term will be a study of Mountain as Metaphor with a visit to the Mountaineering Museum and Sherpa House, both in Golden.



Gifted Education Newsletter

Elizabeth School District Gifted Education Personnel

Kim Morrison

Director of Special Services

kmorrison@esdk12.org

Karen Kendig

Gifted Education Coordinator

kkendig@esdk12.org

Gifted Education Building Liaisons

Leanne Cook (EHS)

lcook@esdk12.org

Julie Reese (EMS)

jreese@esdk12.org

Lynette Metherd (RCE)

lmetherd@esdk12.org

Brian Mayes (SHE)

bmayes@esdk12.org

Elizabeth School District Mission

To provide our students with excellent and diverse learning opportunities that inspire passion for learning, develop individual potential, and prepare them for a successful future.



We're on the web!

[http://www.elizabeth.k12.co.us/
GiftedEducation.aspx](http://www.elizabeth.k12.co.us/GiftedEducation.aspx)

EHS teachers present at Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented Conference



Elizabeth High School teachers Leanne Cook and Regan Ashley shared details of classes and study options in Family and Consumer Studies for nontraditional unidentified gifted students at the Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented (CAGT) Conference in Loveland, Oct. 11. This information was part of a breakout session titled "Challenge and Engage with Career and Technical Education" presented by Shelley Goerdt, CTE Specialist and Marla Caviness-French, G/T Resource Teacher, both from

the Jefferson County School District. Due to several conflicts with other events (parent-conferences at EHS and the Senatorial Debate downtown) the EHS component of the presentation was filmed by the EZ-TV crew at EHS and added to the formal presentation.

The CAGT conference is open to all educators and parents of gifted students. Next year the conference will be held at the Embassy Suites in Loveland, October 23-24, 2017.

CAGT partners with selected

Legislators on bills, proposals, and policies that influence gifted education. Legislative Day is an opportunity for students in grades 8 – 12 to partake in a shadowing experience with a member of the Colorado State Assembly.

CAGT is a state affiliate of the National Association of Gifted Children (NAGC) as they share resources, advocate for gifted programming, provide feedback and continue to be an active voice at the federal level. Visit CAGT at

www.coloradogifted.org/