

# MINNESOTA COUNCIL FOR THE GIFTED AND TALENTED ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**Theme: "On Behalf of Gifted Kids..."**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2008

O'Shaughnessy Education Center, University of St. Thomas - St. Paul Campus

## The Day's Schedule

8:30 -	9:00	Check-in and get program
9:00 -	12:00	Children's morning session
9:00 -	10:30	Welcome, MCGT Friend of the Gifted Award, and Keynote Address by Andrew Mahoney, "Understanding Executive Functioning and Your Gifted Child"
10:45 -	11:45	Adult breakout session - I
11:45 -	1:00	Lunch for adults and kids
1:00 -	4:00	Children's afternoon session
1:00 -	1:20	MCGT Annual Meeting
1:30 -	2:30	Adult breakout session - II
2:45 -	3:45	Adult breakout session - III
4:10 -	4:30	Book Swap session for kids
All day		Vendors & information

**Host and co-sponsor:** The University of St. Thomas School of Education, Graduate Program for Gifted Studies

**Where:** O'Shaughnessy Education Center, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul campus

**Children's Program:** Open only to children of registered adults who attend the conference. Kids in kindergarten through 7th grade must pre-register.

They will choose a morning and an afternoon class led by experienced teachers - course descriptions inside. There are no facilities for children younger than kindergarten. Older kids may register to attend adult sessions or sign up to be volunteers in various areas of the conference (including assisting teachers in one of the kids' classes or helping set up and clean up). Contact Shari at [crowriver@mcgt.net](mailto:crowriver@mcgt.net) for more information on volunteer opportunities at the conference.

**Lunch:** All will eat together in Murray-Herrick Hall. Please mark lunch choices on the registration form.

**Vendors:** Center for Talent Development at Northwestern University, Concordia Language Villages, Educational Impressions, Free Spirit Publishing, Great Potential Press, Hickory Grove Press, Minnesota College Savings Plan, Pieces of Learning, Thinking to Lead, Usborne Books, and more. (Some vendors will not be able to take credit card orders.)

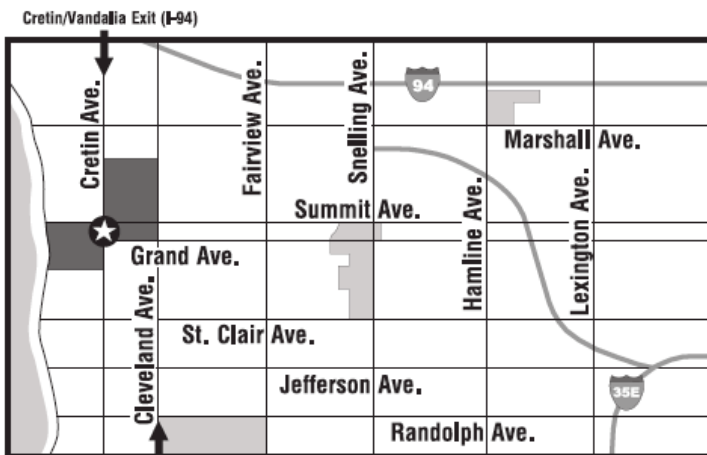
**Information:** There will be information available on Destination Imagination, Midwest Talent Search, Mensa, Mindware, Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation, MCGT Homeschoolers Chapter, National Association for Gifted Children, Prufrock Press, and more.

**Cost:** \$55 for members, \$70 for non-members (but pay the member rate if you join with your registration), \$25 for second adult in the same family and \$35 for each child in kindergarten through seventh grade whose parent(s) or guardian is attending the Conference. The fee includes lunch and snack. No credit cards accepted.

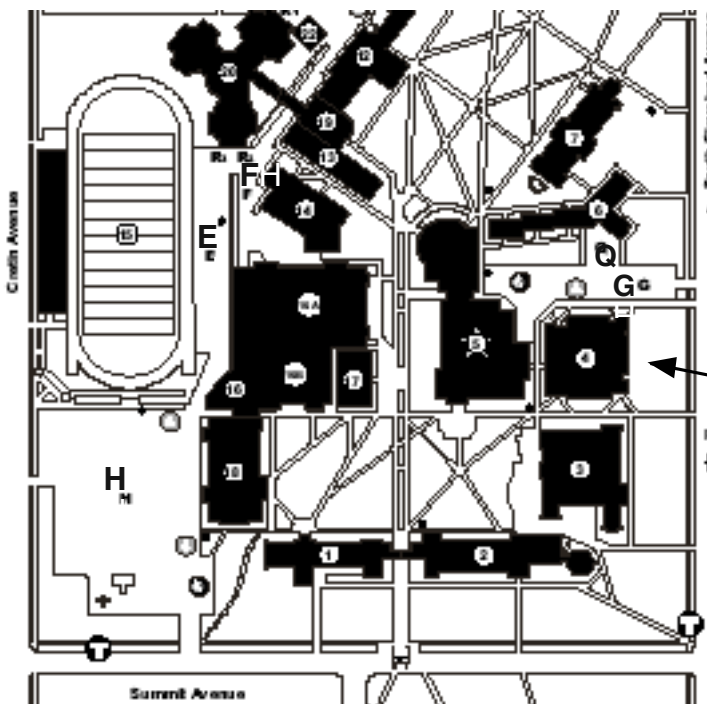
**Incentive for early registration:** If you register by Oct. 3 (postmark) you are entitled to pick up on the day of the conference a set of 12 "Frequently Asked Questions" brochures (National Association for Gifted Children publications), a copy of *Parenting for High Potential* (NAGC publication), or a coupon for \$1.00 off a purchase made at the MCGT table.

O'Shaughnessy Educational Center

**Parking:** On Saturdays, you may park in the University of St. Thomas area marked with the letter H on this map. **DO NOT** park in any lots marked E, G, Q or R (underground lots) - those are reserved at all times for faculty or Divinity School. The entrance to a parking ramp may be reached by going through Lot E from the northeast corner of Lot H. Honor spaces marked for handicapped parking, and, if you choose to park on nearby streets, pay close attention to signs posted by the City of St. Paul - they do ticket violators.



From Highway 5 (Airport / I-494)



# Kids Program Course Descriptions

## Morning (9:00 - 12:00 noon)

### Kindergarten - Second grade

**A101 Marvelous Math & Nifty Numbers** Do you enjoy math games and have fun with numbers? Join us as we work with a variety of math strategies through problem solving, games, and number tricks. We'll explore mystery puzzles and patterns in our world. Come to our fun filled class as we extend our math understanding and skill! *Instructors:* Linda Fullerton is a 1-2 grade teacher in the Eden Prairie School District. Tammy Huston is a long-term substitute teacher in the Eden Prairie School District. Together Linda and Tammy taught a course on Harry Potter at last year's National Gifted and Talented Convention in Minneapolis.

**A102 Play Me a Tale** See the description for **P112**.

**A103 A Glimpse At Van Gogh** Do you wonder what makes an artist great? Would you like to try to imitate the intensity and vibrancy of that artist's work? Do you enjoy paint, dirt, pots, and seeds? You're invited to spend part of your day learning about how Vincent Van Gogh became legendary in the world of art. Use paint and your imagination to "be" Van Gogh, and plant a Van Gogh memory to take home with you! *Instructor:* Gail Swanson teaches Kindergarten in the Osseo-Maple Grove District. She's also taught with West Suburban Summer School recently offering an "Art In Nature, Nature In Art" class.

### Third - Fourth grade

**A201 Extreme Legos** See the description for **P211**.

**A202 Harry Potter Hullabaloo** *This is an all-day class. Sign up for both A202 and P212.* Jump into your Harry Potter portal or use your floo powder to transport yourself to Hogwarts for a day! We'll host a Quiddich tournament, create a dancing wand, tame a spinning serpent in Hagrid's Magical Creatures class, and much more! Apparate into the fun! *Instructor:* Tami Junkermeier is a media specialist at Minnetonka Middle School West. She has taught in elementary and middle schools, for West Suburban Summer School, and at MCGT conferences. She loves both reading and technology, and hosts a book club and a technology club for students after school.

**A203 Amazing Properties: Wet Ice/Dry Ice** See the description for P213.

**A204 Ensconsed Habitats of the Imagination** Hot glue a model biosphere that puts you at home under the sea, on planet Mars, or living in the earlobe of a distant galaxy. Fabricate creatures and contraptions, enhancing a thrilling environment. *Instructor:* Jef Pokorney is an inventor who teaches the art and science of invention. He has presented sessions at European Creativity Conferences, American Creativity Conferences, MCGT Conferences, Mensa and CPSI. His favorite invention is a totally clear canoe. Playing with combinations of unique materials is one of his joyful hobbies.

### Fifth - Seventh grade

**A301 Checkmate!** Know the basic tactical strategies of chess in the beginning of the game, middle game and in the endgame. Calculate different variations. Learn to recognize chess openings and their importance. Use problem-solving skills and prepare for tournament! *Instructor:* Serafima Tsyganova is a Chess Master, and a professional coach with more than 30 years of teaching/coaching experience, including MCGT conferences. She has worked in many schools in Minnesota, and her students play a variety of tournaments, including State and USA championships.

**A302 Alien Worlds** *This is an all-day class. Sign up for both A302 and P312.*

**A303 Youth Can Change the World** Get to know the youth and youth movements that were crucial to the success of the Civil Rights Movement during the 1950s and 1960s. Did you know that kids as young as 4 participated in the movement? Be prepared to learn about people and events including Emmitt Till, the Children's March, student sit-ins, and Freedom Summer. Join us for writing, discussion, video viewing, and art. Become inspired to use your talent to make the changes you'd like to see in your own communities and world! *Instructors:* Amber Cameron is the Assistant Director of the ACT Center, Carleton College's center for civic engagement and service learning. Eric Cameron teaches middle and high school social studies.

**A304 Advertising Layout and Design** Have you ever wondered what it is like to design your own advertisement? Join us for a creative and stimulating journey into the world of advertising! Did you know that psychology influences the color schematics of an advertisement? Imagine yourself as an artist in the creative department of a major agency, and develop a unique advertisement that will promote the newest product on the market. Create a logo that defines your company. Students will have opportunity to present their original advertisements to the group for constructive feedback. *Instructor:* Kris Holtmeyer owns and operates Artistic Moments, a Minneapolis-based on-site art business geared towards the artistic instructional needs of all ages. She has taught classes in West Suburban Summer School, as well as past MCGT conferences.

## Afternoon (1:00 - 4:00 p.m.)

### Kindergarten - Second grade

**P111 Marvelous Math & Nifty Numbers** See the description for **A101**.

**P112 Play Me a Tale** Using props and costumes, three hours of time, and a good story, you can take a tale off the pages of a book and put it into your bodies and voices to create a play. Through theatre games, giggles, and a whole lot of fun you'll gain a better understanding of stage presence, the art of story telling, and teamwork, and increase your confidence to perform in front of others! *Instructor:* Alia Mortensen has worked with CLIMB Theatre, Stages Theatre Company, Youth Performance Company, The Bakken Science Museum, Warner Nature Center, Winona area Parks and Recreation, and taught a class in the Kids Program at the NAGC Convention last year. She enjoys using theatre as a teaching tool for ages 4-18 for everything from science to social skills.

**P113 A Glimpse At Van Gogh** See the description for **A103**.

### Third - Fourth grade

**P211 Extreme Legos** Learn the basics of engineering and physics while challenging your creativity and intellect! Build multiple projects using Lego materials and use those projects to investigate engineering principles. We'll have fun while being inventive! *Instructor:* Youth Enrichment League (YEL) representative. YEL has worked in the Gifted and Talented Institute, a summer program sponsored by several metro school districts and an MCGT chapter south of the Minnesota River. YEL has also provided children's teachers for the MCGT state conferences, and the NAGC conference last year.

**P212 Harry Potter Hullabaloo** *This is an all-day class. Sign up for both A202 and P212.*

**P213 Amazing Properties: Wet Ice/Dry Ice** Do you know how to make an Exploding Pillow, a Crystal Ball, or a Deluminator? Enjoy lots of magical effects in this bubbly, vaporous, messy, noisy, mystical, slightly misty, very cool class! *Instructor:* Jane Snell Copes has taught a variety of classes, including chemistry and physics through The Works in Edina. She's also taught at the Science Museum of Minnesota, for West Suburban Summer School, and for North St. Paul COMET program for high potential students. She is a writer, teacher, and chemist who has fun working with science every day!

**P214 Chess Champs** Practice strategy and tactics for playing this classic game as you develop your problem-solving abilities and learn about the history of chess. For those who have never played, or who know only the basic moves, or who have played a little. Discover how to play a good game! *Instructor:* Serafima Tsyganova is a Chess Master, and a professional coach with more than 30 years of teaching/coaching experience, including MCGT conferences. She has worked in many schools in Minnesota, and her students play a variety of tournaments, including State and USA championships.

### Fifth - Seventh grade

**P311 Ensconsed Habitats of the Imagination** See the description for **A204**.

**P312 Alien Worlds** *This is an all-day class. Sign up for both A302 and P312.* Create a new world from scratch, then add stars, oceans, landscapes and ecologies. From a logical ecology, one intelligence will evolve, for which you will develop biology, language, society, artifacts, art, laws, morals and philosophy. Then, if we have time, the aliens you've created will try and interact with each other - PEACEFULLY! *Instructor:* Guy Stewart has taught science, from astronomy to zoology, for 26 years. He's led hundreds of students in creating Alien Worlds for West Suburban Summer School for the past nine years and at MCGT conferences. He is a well-published science fiction writer as well.

**P313 Photo to Canvas with acrylic paints** Watch your favorite 8.5" by 11" photograph come to life! Learn how to draw your photograph onto your canvas using a fun and easy method. You will then learn how to mix and blend vibrant acrylic paints and use a variety of paintbrushes to compose your masterpiece! All artistic abilities welcome...remember your art shirt! (Students are encouraged to bring a favorite colored photograph of a landscape, seascape, family pet, etc.) A tip: Human anatomy is more difficult to draw and/or paint, especially for beginners. *Instructor:* Kris Holtmeyer owns and operates Artistic Moments, a Minneapolis-based on-site art business geared towards the artistic instructional needs of all ages. She has taught classes in West Suburban Summer School, as well as MCGT conferences.

# Registration Form

## ADULT REGISTRATION

- ✓ Each participant must register, using one registration form per family.
- ✓ Those who are not members of MCGT, or whose membership has expired, may join when they register.
- ✓ Check out some of the Adult session titles on back.
- ✓ Indicate lunch preferences.
- ✓ Registration deadline is October 14, 2008.

## STUDENT REGISTRATION

- ✓ Every child must register and attend with parent or guardian who is registered for the conference. Postcards will be sent to confirm each child's class choices.
- ✓ Registrations with postmarks of October 3 or earlier will be considered first-day registrations and given equal consideration for class choices. Postmarks will determine placements after that until classes are filled.
- ✓ There are no facilities for children under kindergarten age.
- ✓ Indicate lunch preferences.
- ✓ Registration deadline is October 14, 2008.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (home) ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ (work or cell) ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ School District \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Name of second adult in the same family attending the conference

Note any special considerations for adult(s) or child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_

Check if you are a presenter  or a volunteer

## Box Lunch Choices

Please indicate a sandwich and beverage choice for each registered adult and child.  
All lunch sandwiches come with an apple, bag of chips and cookie.

### Sandwich:

\_\_\_\_\_ Turkey, Provolone, Lettuce and Mayo on Wheat Bread

\_\_\_\_\_ Marinated and Grilled Vegetables with Herbed Cream Cheese on Toasted Focaccia Bread

\_\_\_\_\_ Sliced Roast Beef, Cheddar Cheese, Sliced Tomato, Horseradish, Mayo on Flat Bread

### Beverage:

\_\_\_\_\_ Soda \_\_\_\_\_ Milk

\_\_\_\_\_ Ham, Swiss, Lettuce and Dijon Mustard on Marble Bread

\_\_\_\_\_ Non-carbonated spring water

Children's Name(s)	m/f	Grade	Enter the course numbers of each child's choices.						
			Morning Choices			Afternoon Choices			
			1st	2nd	3rd	1st	2nd	3rd	
Child #1 _____									
Child #2 _____									
Child #3 _____									

I release MCGT, University of St. Thomas and Conference participants of any liability for injuries or damages incurred to myself/child/spouse while participating in the 2008 MCGT Conference.

### Fees Enclosed

- Adult member - \$55 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Nonmember - \$70 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Second adult in the family - \$25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- MCGT membership fee - \$35/year or \$65/2 years (new renewal) Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 2nd Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ \$16/yr \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- NAGC Parent Membership @ \$10 (must also be a member of MCGT) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Number of children \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Checks Only Please TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



**Make checks payable to and send to:**  
 MN Council for the Gifted & Talented  
 5701 Normandale Rd., Suite 315  
 Edina, MN 55424

# Keynote

## Understanding Executive Functioning and Your Gifted Child

Turning in assignments; planning and carrying out a long term project; self initiating homework; these are just a few concerns that come along with issues related to executive functioning. Executive function is the part of the brain that works as the conductor or the central organizing force that allows an individual to be academically functional and organized in life. When executive functioning is not addressed this problem will complicate the life of the child in learning, the home environment and also may impair relationships. If untreated the gifted child with executive functioning issues can go into adulthood before the problem has an impact often times resulting in diminished work capacity and leading to secondary problems like increased anxiety and depression. This presentation provides an overview for understanding these issues and ways to help.

Andrew (Andy) Mahoney, M.S., L.P.C. is a Licensed Professional Counselor, Marriage and Family Therapist and Director of a counseling center in Pennsylvania. He also maintains a counseling practice in Chicago. For more than 20 years, Mr. Mahoney has explored, researched and developed frameworks on the counseling, psychotherapy, achievement and identity formation of gifted and talented individuals. Mr. Mahoney is known as a pioneer in these areas and is a nationally recognized speaker and practitioner, delivering many keynote addresses and publishing on the topics of achievement and gifted identity formation. He consults with individuals and organizations regularly on achievement related issues. In addition, he had been a long-standing executive board member of the Counseling and Guidance Division of the National Association for Gifted Children and past Chair of that division. His work offers a new and original perspective for those interested in better serving this unique population or with an interest in understanding the nature of achievement.

## Adult Session Titles

A complete list and description of adult sessions will be given out at the conference. You will be free to go to any sessions the day of the conference – this listing is tentative and for informational purposes only. A complete list and description of the sessions will be available on the website in early October.

- All means All: Meeting the Needs of Gifted Middle Schoolers
- Assessing Executive Functioning in Gifted Students
- Click-O-Rama: A Tour of Free Online Enrichment Resources
- Developing Friendship Skills in Gifted Children
- Differentiation 101: What Parents Should Expect from Teachers in the 'Regular, Mixed-Ability Classroom'
- Don't Fence Me In: Mastery, Creativity and Adventure in the Home Education of Bright Kids
- Down-to-Earth Advocacy for Beginners
- Gifted Children with Learning, Emotional, and Attentional Challenges: A Group Discussion
- How Gifts can Mask: Revealing Undiagnosed Learning Problems
- IEP's 504's, and Informal Accommodation Plans: Including Challenges and Gifts in the Twice-Exceptional Student's Academic Program
- If You're So Smart, Why Aren't You Doing Well in School? How Child Personality Type Affects School Adjustment
- Leadership Giftedness: Something to Develop or Something Innate?"
- Parenting Young Gifted Children
- Recent Research in Gifted Education
- Reclaiming Your Genius
- Twice Exceptional Learners: A view from the MN Dept. of Education Specialists
- Visual-Spatial Learners
- When You Tell 'em They're Smart, You Gotta Tell 'em This Too
- Working with the Social-Emotional Needs of the Gifted and Talented: Using the Gifted Identity Formation Model

The Minnesota Council for the Gifted and Talented (MCGT) is a state-wide non-profit organization dedicated to promoting better understanding of, and educational services for, gifted and talented children and their families. Its members are mainly parents, educators and other professionals. MCGT provides information, literature and referral services, publishes a bi-monthly newsletter, conducts occasional topical seminars and CHAT nights, sponsors an annual state conference with special children's program, promotes advocacy at all levels for gifted and talented children, is active in legislative efforts on behalf of gifted kids in collaboration with the Minnesota Educators of the Gifted and Talented, and participates in a national network through its affiliation with the National Association for Gifted Children and other organizations. Chapters throughout the state provide opportunities for local activities.

Call 952-848-4906 for more information, or check the website [www.mcgt.net](http://www.mcgt.net)