

SPAN meeting Feb. 3, 2014 Minutes

*Reminder about Synergy/SAGE Family Fun Night on Thursday Feb. 6 at 6:30 in the TOMS cafeteria. The Works will provide hands-on stations and the Prior Lake robotics team will give demonstrations.

*Remaining meetings this school year:

Monday, March 3, 2014 @ 7 p.m. in the WestWood Media Center. Speaker Deborah Ruf (High Intelligence Specialist, author of *5 Levels of Gifted*) will speak on ability testing and levels of giftedness.

Thursday April 3, 2014 @ 7p.m. in the WestWood Media Center. Anne Rinkenberger (Twin Cities' therapist who specializes in counseling gifted children) will speak about the social and emotional needs of gifted kids...what is characteristic of gifted kids and when a parent might want to seek counseling help.

***Speaker Dr. Karen Rogers from the University of St. Thomas: Providing for Twice Exceptional Learners Both Inside and Outside of School**

**NOTE: You can obtain a copy of Dr. Rogers' powerpoint presentation by emailing your request to kbrogers@stthomas.edu

Educational Options in school:

1. Grouping: Karen has collected research on "effect size" of various grouping methods that show how effective it is for gifted students (twice-exceptional or not). For example, placing gifted students in a full-time gifted program has effect size 0.45, meaning that gifted students in a full-time gifted program show 1.45 years academic gain as compared to like-ability gifted students who are not in a full-time gifted program. Performance grouping, cluster grouping, within class grouping, etc. have significant effect sizes.
2. Acceleration: Early college admission, accelerated high school classes, AP classes, International Baccalaureate classes, subject acceleration, and summer university courses have significant effect sizes for gifted students (regardless of whether students are 2E); there is little or no research for 2E kids related to grade acceleration and early entrance into school (although research shows significant effect sizes for gifted kids in general).
3. Individualization: Credit by examination, independent study, mentorships, and on-line learning/distance courses have significant effect sizes for gifted students (regardless of whether students are 2E); there is little or no research for 2E kids related to homeschooling and IEPs.

There was a discussion about the benefits and drawbacks of having an IEP (teachers more willing to follow but can be limiting because it usually focuses on a child's challenges rather than gifts) vs. 504 plan.(is more flexible than an IEP but teachers aren't as apt to follow)

4. Counseling: Karen mentioned the following resources....
Joel Anderson's *What's on Your Mind?* (teaching activities for gifted kids—for teacher use)
Free Spirit Publishing catalogs
 - a. Texts for kids addressing social and emotional issues
 - b. Texts for parents addressing social and emotional issues
 - c. Ideas for personal development - character education, discipline, resilience, risk-taking, overcoming perfectionism, life and career planningDelisle, *When Gifted Kids Don't Have All the Answers* (good section about underachievement)

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Heacox's *Up From Underachievement* (good for teachers)

(Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted) SENG's programs and texts
Prufrock Press Publishing catalogs

Excellent resources for teachers, including curricula

Some good reads for and resources for parents

Project 2Excel website at University of St. Thomas

www.stthomas.edu/project2excel (modules for parents)

5. Teacher choice: characteristics of teachers who work well with gifted kids; asterisked items are particularly beneficial for 2E kids....

- a. Has expertise in specific academic talent area
- b. Has strong belief in individual differences and individualization **
- c. Has highly developed teaching skill & knowledge
- d. Is self-directed in own learning, loves to learn in advanced areas
- e. Has genuine liking for gifted learners **
- f. Has high degree of intelligence, intellectual honesty
- g. Is level-headed and emotionally stable **
- h. Is a "guide on the side" rather than "sage on the stage"
- i. Gives consistent, accurate feedback **
- j. Recognizes the importance of intellectual (and talent) development **
- k. Varies pacing of learning experiences

There was a question about what to do (practically) to determine in high school what teachers might work best with your child. Recommendation: request the school year before to sit in on various teachers' classes; possibly have your child join you.

6. School choice:

On-line public schools that accommodate for 2e:

- Minnesota Connections Academy (K-12)
- Minnesota Virtual Academy (K-12)
- K-12 On-line Schools
- Stanford University EPGY
- IB Academy Minnesota
- Insight School of Minnesota (6-12)
- eMinnesota Online Academy (9-12)
- VIBE Academy (K-12)

On-line private schools that accommodate for 2e:

- K¹² International Academy
- George Washington University Online High School
- Keystone School (7-12)

Cyber Village Academy has also been mentioned frequently as being 2E-friendly in MCGT's yahoo discussion group.

Purchasable (or free) Course Options

- Supplemental Learning Options (K-12 with teacher support)
- Khan Academy (Math, Sciences, Economics, Humanities)
- Kahn Partner content (J. Paul Getty Museum, MOMA, Stanford School of Medicine, California Academy of Sciences)

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- www.Corseira.org (free on-line courses from 80 universities, such as Northwestern “How Green is that Product? 6 week course)
 - University of Missouri, Princeton, Duke free on-line courses
- MOOCs all over the place
7. Co-curriculars and Competitions:
- Leadership development programs
 - Student Councils
 - Young Leaders programs
 - Your additions?
 - Academic development programs
 - Olympiads in mathematics, sciences
 - Math Masters, Word Masters
 - Westinghouse competitions
 - LEGO League (robotics) competition
 - Future City competition
 - Intel International Science & Engineering Fair
 - Craftsman/NSTA Young Inventors Awards program
 - National History Day
 - Odyssey of the Mind
 - Destination Imagination
 - Tournament of Minds
 - Future Problem Solving Bowl
- The World of Escher Contest
 - Rubik’s Cube Tournament
 - USA Science & Engineering Science Video Contest
 - NSA Math Talent Search
 - USA Computing Olympiad
 - Rubber Band Contest for Young Inventors
 - NASA Student Launch Initiative
 - Knowledge Masters
 - Kids’ Philosophy Slam
 - Intel International Science & Engineering Fair
 - Davidson Fellows Program

Outside of School options:

- Talent Search Programs (ES= .34)
 - SMPY - CTY @ Johns Hopkins (19 states)
 - TIP @ Duke University (16 states)
 - CTD @ Northwestern University (8 states)
 - Rocky Mtn. TS @ University of Denver (7 states)
 - C-Mites @ Carnegie Mellon (1 state)
 - WCATY @ University of Wisconsin (1 state)
 - Belin-Blank Search @ Univ. of Iowa
 - Summer programs at colleges
- Study skills, test taking skills courses - Kaplan

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“Home” options:

- “Backstage” tours of local, regional, national, international businesses, art institutions, musical venues, sights, cultural experiences
- Discussion of perspectives: politics, religion, economics, Zeitgeist, humanities
- Community project participation - service learning, collaboration, cooperation, planning
- Family role models
 - Literature
 - Activism
 - Arts engagement
 - Work life
 - Dealing with own “disabilities”
- Skill building
 - Manual dexterity - music, word processing, Origami, puzzles, construction-woodworking
 - Visualization - orienteering, outdoor backpacking, chess
 - Linguistic - foreign language fluency, communication precision/expression
 - Dramatic - theater training, voice, movement, speech & debate
- Knowledge not covered in school
 - Philosophy
 - Classics of literature - Syntopticon
 - Classic ideas of science, mathematics
 - Logic - propositional calculus
 - Third and fourth languages, especially dead languages (Latin, etc.)
 - Geography

Books and resources for teachers:

Blogs and Journals

- 2e Twice Exceptional Newsletter
- 2educator: Unexpected gifts
- Byrdseed Gifts (lessons for 2e learners)
- WeAreGifted2
- Ramblingsofagiftedteacher
- NAGC Webinars
- Senginars
- Davidson Institute Educators Guild

Conferences

- Confratute (July, Connecticut)
- NAGC (November, Baltimore)

Books and Articles

- *When Talent Masks the Learning Disability* (Bailey)
- *Twice-Exceptional Students: An Introductory Resource book* (Colorado Dept. of Education)
- *To Be Gifted and Learning Disabled: Strategies for Helping Bright Students with LD, ADHD, and More* (Susan Baum and Steven Owens)
- *Teaching Kids With Learning Difficulties in the Regular Classroom: Strategies and Techniques Every Teacher Can Use to Challenge and motivate Struggling Students* (Winebrenner and Espeland)
- *Misdiagnosis and Diagnosis of Gifted Children and LD, ADHD, ODD and More* (Webb et al)

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- *Imagine Teaching Robin Williams: Twice Exceptional Children in Your School My Thirteenth Winter* (Samantha Abeel)

Books and Resources for Parents:

Blogs and Journals

- The Twice Exceptional Newsletter Newsletter
- www.giftedoutofthebox.com/cori
- Senginars
- SENG Online Parent Support Groups
- Davidson Gifted Issues Discussion Forum

Conferences

- Diamonds in the Rough: Smart Kids Who Learn Differently (March, 2014, Virginia)
- SENG Conference (July, San Jose, California)

Books and Articles

- "You are Here": Talent Search Helps Twice Exceptional Student Succeed (Northwestern University CTD, article by Karen Evers)
- *Underachievement and Learning Disabilities in Children Who Are Gifted* (Steven Zecker)

Different Minds: Gifted Children With ADHD, Asperger Syndrome, and other Learning Difficulties (Lovecky)