

2011 MCGT Conference Adult Sessions

15 Most Perplexing Math Problems Ever Devised – Ed Zaccaro

The solutions to these problems seem straightforward and simple, but the obvious answers are incorrect. To find the correct solutions, students must change their normal thinking patterns and approach each problem in a different way. You will leave this session with many unique problem-solving strategies and the ability to challenge and interest even your most gifted math students.

Academic Needs & Instruction for College-Bound Gifted Students with Attentional Deficits – Terry Friedrichs and Amos Asher Gewirtz

Each year, a large number of gifted youth with attention deficit disorders enroll in college. Despite their great intellectual and academic gifts, some of these students are more academically prepared for college than others. From the gifted-education and attentional-deficits literature (1990-2010), discover some approaches that have been used successfully to prepare secondary-level gifted students with attentional challenges for college entrance tests, challenging coursework, and advanced competitions and internships. Then, hear how one student implemented his own techniques to prepare for, and excel in, these same areas.

Arthink: Creativity Skills for 21st Century Careers – Ray Frigard

Arthink is a hands-on methodology that applies fundamentals of the arts for creative thinking and clear communication of ideas. Projects are designed to engage the students in challenge scenarios that lead them through the creative problem solving (CPS) process while applying 12 creativity tools used by artists, inventors and designers in their development of works of art, inventions and new product concepts. Previous art experience is not necessary. Individuals will work at their personal level of artistic competency (even stick figures) where original thinking and idea communication is what matters.

Challenging Children Through the Study of Real World Algebra – Ed Zaccaro

People have traditionally assumed that elementary students could not learn advanced mathematical concepts such as algebra. When presented properly, mathematically gifted students as young as 3rd and 4th grade can not only understand and apply complex algebraic concepts, but they love the challenge of working with the most powerful problem solving tool ever invented. Algebra is too often viewed as an abstract concept with no practical uses because children are rarely taught to think algebraically. Learn strategies for helping children think algebraically with an approach that connects algebra to real world problems.

Challenging Gifted Students with Math Competitions – Dana Koletar

In this session, we will discuss the use of math competitions as a tool to challenge the gifted math student. There are several competitions that span grades 2-12. Come and find out what they are, how they work, and how to get involved.

Community Service-Leadership by Secondary-Level Gifted Students – Terry Friedrichs, Robert Frerich, and Allie Specht

Across the country, in response to schools' curricular mandates and gifted students' own passions to serve, these students have responded in significant numbers to community needs. From an overview of the gifted education literature and popular press (2000-2011), learn about the different types of secondary-level school-based community service programs that exist around the country, and how those programs successfully engage different levels of student consciousness. Successful programs have students: 1) observe, 2) follow, and 3) lead. Learn also about one Minneapolis-based community-service program that is making a significant impact, on both students and those served, with its own opportunities to watch, do, and lead.

Experience Areté in Your Life: An Interactive Leadership Workshop – Celine Kline

Wellness education for young adults is so vital since the habits they develop during the critical years of development are carried forth into adulthood. Areté curriculum is fluid and employs an experiential approach where learning is active and insights occur through the interaction/interchanges with others. The four components that comprise the foundation of Areté (e.g., positive collective environment/efficacy, emotional intelligence/competencies, transformational learning, and mentorship - learning with peers not from them) will

be experienced first-hand. This is an active workshop where participants will learn new skills, activities and methods that they will be able to employ at their respective sites. Participants will also gain an understanding of how to encourage growth of emotional intelligence through the use of experiential methods. Additional ideas such as mentoring and transformational learning will be addressed.

Gifted Learners with Reading Difficulties – Wendy Behrens

This session will focus on successful strategies for recognizing and responding to the unique needs of gifted learners with reading difficulties. A case study will be presented as well as tips for teachers and parents of these unique learners.

Gifted Futures – Carmen Tschofen

Education and policies for gifted students are based on past research and learning traditions. But are these ideas sufficient for anticipating and understanding what might come next for developing learners and ourselves? This session draws on the emerging field of futures (or "foresight") studies to explore evolving contexts for understanding and supporting gifts, giftedness, and creative talent development in our rapidly shifting and complex environments.

Gifted Girls Grow Up: Tools to Navigate Adolescence and Beyond – Megan Bearce

This session will explore the influence of giftedness on the life experiences of teenage girls and women including: perfectionism, self-esteem, feeling different, "should's", and relationships with co-workers, family, and friends. Discussion of tips on navigating stressors, finding school or work/life balance, what is therapy, and how to find the right therapist as another option for support.

Homeschoolers Parent Panel – Homeschoolers Chapter

Homeschooling parents will share information on the legal environment for homeschooling in Minnesota, approaches to homeschooling, tips on finding resources, advice on college admission, and answers to audience questions about homeschooling gifted children.

How a School Grew a Prairie...and an Arboretum – “Outdoor Nature Classrooms” at Middleton Elementary School – Jodi Miller

What is an “Outdoor Classroom”? Why would you want a ‘weed patch’ anyway? In 2005, I started a project to help children study science as the district elementary science position was cut. I created an on-site ‘field trip’ aligned with the SCIS life science K-6 curriculum. Problems included permission, site selection/bee stings, buy-in from 60+ teachers and community groups, winning \$10,000 grants, growing/identifying forbs, staff turnover, and maintenance. The session format is a two minute overview of each problem followed by a five minute work session in small groups, to create a “Nature Classroom” in your backyard, school, or local park.

In Defense of Intellectualism – Stephen Schroeder-Davis

The publishing industry has recently boarded the anti-intellectual bandwagon with the publication of several books with titles such as *Talent is Overrated*, and *The Genius in all of Us*. Together we will examine the flaws in the authors’ assertions (as they can not be considered “arguments”) and will consider why this new incarnation of anti-intellectualism is emerging.

Judged by Performance: A Different View of “Mindset” and the Improvement of Gifted Self-Experience – Tom Greenspon

The experience of giftedness is a central part of self experience as a whole, and it can be positive or negative. Carol Dweck has observed that certain gifted students encounter difficulties when asked to perform tasks. Her work focuses on the students’ fixed intellect mindsets, but a more fundamental dynamic may be at work. These students’ self esteem may be affected by their belief that poor performance calls their giftedness into question. Parents, teachers, and counselors can help students undo this belief and create a path toward more positive self experience and improved performance.

The Latest Research on IQ Testing 2011 – Karl Bunday

Ongoing research on human cognition is forging a new consensus on what IQ tests miss and what they

can predict at the individual level and societal level. Get up to date with 2011 publications in this fast-paced presentation, and bring your questions.

Learning Styles of Twice-Exceptional Children – Stuart Dansinger

Matching the teacher's teaching style to the 2-e child's learning style is extremely important. A mismatch of learning/teaching styles usually leads to severe consequences for the 2-e child. Some of the problems that may occur are underachievement, outright failure, stress, anxiety, and other emotional problems. Unlike many gifted children, the 2-e child fails to adapt to the mismatched teaching style because of various problems in executive functioning. Different learning styles exist for the gifted child with Asperger's ADHD, depression, anxiety, obsessive-compulsive tendencies, emotional sensitivity, or learning disabilities. In this session, these learning styles will be identified, and possible connections between the learning styles and 2-e traits will be discussed. In addition, participants will be able to assess their child's learning style to see how they learn best and to determine what can be difficult for them.

Levels of Giftedness – Deborah Ruf

Ruf's signature work in levels of giftedness helps the audience to recognize how diverse the gifted population is, what signs to look for in identifying gifted children as early as their toddler years, how to tease apart and take advantage of different tests and assessments for high intelligence, and how to meet the social and emotional needs of this population.

The Lives of Gifted and Talented Women Today – Megan Bearce

What happens when the gifted girls grow up and start careers? This session will explore the influence of giftedness on the life experiences of women including: perfectionism, feeling like a fraud, "should's", and relationships with co-workers, family, and friends. Discussion will include tips on navigating stressors, entering the workforce at a young age, the trend of women in the STEM fields leaving the workforce and not returning, and how we can support and mentor each other and young girls. The goal of the session is to provide tools to support gifted women and provide a forum to discuss topics unique to them.

"Minding the Gap and Closing it" ...An Overview of the Young Scholars Program in District 196 – Joan Johnson, Stephanie Madson, Pam McDonald, Mary Spychalla

The presentation will describe services and programming options for Young Scholars students at the elementary and middle school level. The Young Scholars (YS) Program is an academic program that embraces research-based practices for identifying and nurturing gifted potential in students who have historically been overlooked by gifted services. Young Scholars promotes the notion of access, affirmation, and advocacy for continuous academic growth beginning in kindergarten. The long term goal of the Young Scholars Program is to encourage the pursuit of advanced coursework in participating students in the secondary level and in higher education.

"Mindset" and Its Implications for Raising a Happy High Achiever – Stephen Schroeder-Davis

This presentation, based on the research and writing of Carol Dweck's book, *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*, will examine how two mindsets – "fixed" (concerned primarily with performance and impressing others) and "growth" (concerned with learning) – develop, and the consequences of each. Time will also be devoted to the strategies advocates can use to help develop and encourage a growth mindset in themselves as well as their children and students.

MDE Listening Session: What's working? What needs Work? – Wendy Behrens

This listening session is an opportunity for conference attendees to provide feedback to the Minnesota Department of Education and ask questions of Wendy Behrens, the department's gifted and talented education specialist. This is your opportunity to share what's working and what's not!

Moving Past Perfect: What Perfectionism Is, and How to Help – Tom Greenspon

Perfectionism can sap emotional energy, cause difficulties in relationships, and interfere with performance. It is not about pushing one's limits or pursuing excellence; it's about the desire to be perfect, the fear of being imperfect, and the emotional conviction that personal acceptability requires a struggle to meet

certain conditions. Mistakes are signs of personal defects that threaten acceptance. Although perfectionism is not a part of giftedness, gifted kids can be vulnerable in certain ways. Find out what perfectionism is, where it comes from, and how to encourage excellence without seeming to require perfection.

Nurturing Creativity in Gifted Children – Araela Kumaraea

How are a light bulb and a cup of coffee alike? What would happen if humans had only one leg? Some children seem to have a natural tendency toward creative thinking while for others it appears to be more of a challenge, but no matter what, creativity can be nurtured and enhanced or thwarted and blocked. In this workshop, explore ways to encourage and build upon creative thinking skills and expose your child to the joy of creativity; a powerful asset in all areas of life.

Parenting When the Apple Falls Far from the Tree – Jane Kise

If you struggle with parenting your gifted child, this session is for you. Not all gifted children are the same—and using the same parenting strategies on all can lead to disaster, especially if your children aren't wired like you. Hear from a parent of two gifted children (now young adults) who is also an expert in personality types describe how this rich theory assists in navigating landmines including discipline, homework, and family togetherness. Her research base as well as experiences raising children whose types were different from each other—and from either parent—demonstrate using this framework to honor children while preserving adult sanity.

Powerful Strategies to Enhance Learning of Gifted & Highly Capable Students – Nathan Levy

This workshop explores numerous, proven ways to reach gifted learners in challenging ways. The objective is to have participants leave with a variety of new strategies and specific ideas to help pupils become better creative and critical thinkers. A variety of successful teaching and parenting techniques will be shared - as well as numerous writing, and thinking activities. Bring your thinking caps.

Preparing for the Next Step: Developing the Habits of Mind Admission Counselors Cherish – Bill Keilty

College for many gifted kids becomes a target while still in elementary school. Preparing for the rigors of that pathway requires developing a specific set of skills. These *Habits of Mind* have become a lens through which college applicants are measured. Participants in this session will gain a deeper understanding of the sixteen intelligent behaviors of successful adults and explore strategies to nurture them in their households.

Project 2EXCEL: What We Have Learned About Twice Exceptionality in Minnesota – Karen Rogers

Project 2Excel has just completed its second year of implementation in four Minnesota districts: South Washington County, St. Paul, Inver Grove Heights, and Bloomington (first year only). Achievement data, self-efficacy growth data, and motivational data have been collected on the 105 students who have participated in this research program. The results of this project will be shared, particularly what has happened for the learners involved; some of the individual growth witnessed will be told as “stories about the kids.” Some of the strategies (“Toolbox”) developed by the teachers in the project will also be shared, as will some of the instruments we have found and tried out that “work” for finding these very special learners.

Responding to the Intensity of the Gifted Child in the Classroom and the Home – Teresa Boatman

We will discuss understanding and responding to the five overexcitabilities identified by Dabrowski as well as other areas of intensity (perfectionism, frustration tolerance, anxiety) seen in many gifted children. Learn various techniques and strategies that can be taught to students and used by adults to help intense people learn to moderate and cope with their personal view and responses to the world.

Self-Regulation: Critical Skills for Adolescent Gifted Learners – Richard Cash

As children move into adolescence, motivation to learn becomes more complex, especially for gifted students. In many cases, adolescent gifted learners may not have amassed the required strategies of self-regulation to manage complex curricula and projects. It is essential that teachers and parents assist gifted adolescents in developing the skills of self-regulation, including planning, organizing, and meta-cognition. Self-regulation is critical in becoming an autonomous responsible learner. This session will examine the

fundamentals of self-regulation and demonstrate how to infuse strategies into everyday experiences, lessons and activities.

Supporting School Success – Diane Heacox

How can parents and significant adults provide the encouragement and necessary support critical to their children's school success in today's diverse classrooms? Learn more about your child's preferred way to learn so that you can help them "unlock" more pleasure in learning as well as become more motivated to actively commit to excellence. Leave our session with practical ideas to support your child's school success.

Supporting the Unique Needs of Gifted-GLBTQ Youth – Teresa Manzella

Being intellectually gifted makes kids different in many ways from their age peers. Add membership in a sexual minority (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or questioning) to giftedness, and sometimes the differences are more than these kids can handle. What are some of the challenges they face, and what can adults—whether parents, teachers, school personnel, or community members—do to ensure that the teens they care about are supported? Discussion will include issues of bullying, isolation, homelessness, and a lack of role models, as well as resources and advocacy tools.

Top 10 Issues and Concerns for Parents of Gifted Children – Stuart Dansinger

Parents of gifted and talented children always seem to be concerned about issues including the child(ren)'s behavior or emotions, school programs, peer and family relations, homework completion, challenging acceleration, achieving potential, and motivation. With these concerns in mind, most parents would like to have access to information that could help them in the struggle to raise a g/t child. Surprisingly, there is little research on strategies to help raise a g/t child. Moreover, these parents face additional challenges that are generally misunderstood and not well defined. A recent study of topics of frequent interest and concern to parents will be reviewed, general guidelines of parenting strategies will be discussed, and instruction will be given on how to teach behavioral skills to g/t children.

Young Gifted Children – Teresa Boatman

Join us for an introduction to the world of the gifted preschooler and early elementary age child. We will discuss how to identify giftedness in a child, the issues that make parenting and educating these children so challenging, and strategies to assist you in guiding your child(ren).