

# MINNESOTA COUNCIL FOR THE GIFTED AND TALENTED ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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

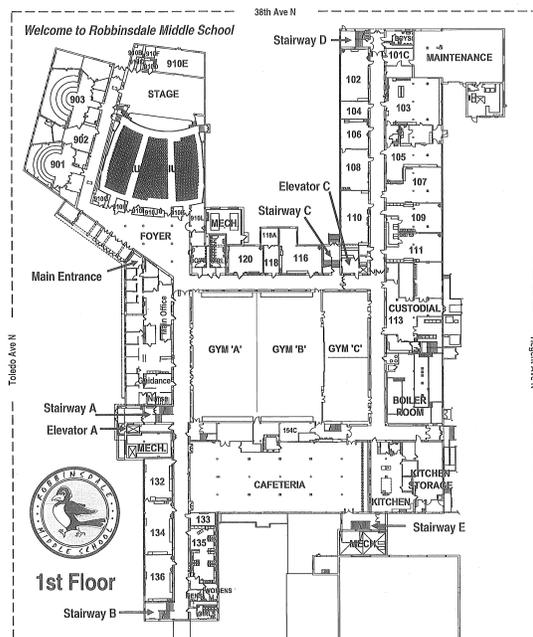
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2015

Robbinsdale Middle School - 3730 Toledo Ave N, Robbinsdale, MN 55422

## The Day's Schedule

8:30 - 9:00	Check-in and pick up program
9:00 - 12:00	Children's morning session
9:00 - 10:30	Welcome, MCGT Friend of the Gifted Award, Layne Kalbfleisch Keynote Address
10:45 - 11:45	Adult Breakout Session I
11:45 - 12:30	Lunch for adults and students
12:30 - 1:20	Richard Rusczyk Keynote Address
1:30 - 1:50	MCGT Annual Meeting
1:30 - 4:30	Children's afternoon session
2:00 - 3:00	Adult Breakout Session II
3:15 - 4:15	Adult Breakout Session III
4:40 - 5:00	Book Swap session for students
All day	Vendors & information

**Driving Directions:** Robbinsdale Middle School (3730 Toledo Ave N, Robbinsdale) is just off MN-100 – south of 694 and north of 394. Take MN-100 to N 36th Ave. Take the 36th Ave exit from MN-100. Turn east onto N 36th Ave. Turn left onto Regent Ave N. Turn left toward Toledo Ave N. Turn right onto Toledo Ave N.



## Parking and Registration:

Parking is free in either the front or back lot. Registration and Check in will be in the auditorium foyer.



**Host and co-sponsor:** Robbinsdale Area Schools

**Where:** Robbinsdale Middle School, 3730 Toledo Ave N, Robbinsdale

**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@mgt.net](mailto:crowriver@mgt.net) for more information on volunteer opportunities at the conference.

**Lunch:** All will eat together in the school's cafeteria. Please mark lunch choices on the registration form.

**Exhibitors and Vendors:** Arete Academy, Center for Talent Development at Northwestern University and Northwestern University Midwest Academic Talent Search, Concordia Language Villages, Friedrichs Education, Mad2Glad, MCGT (books from a number of publishers), Mitch Maguire/Forward Progression Education, Tyler Institute, Usborne Books and more. (Some vendors may not be able to take credit card orders.)

**Information and Catalogs:** Best Prep, Destination Imagination, Educational Impressions, Free Spirit Publishing, Great Potential Press, Intermediate District 287, Mensa, Mindware, Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation, Minnesota College Savings Plan, MCGT Homeschoolers Chapter, National Association for Gifted Children, Pieces of Learning, Prufrock Press, University of St. Thomas College of Education, Youth Enrichment League 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. Credit cards may be used if registering online.

**Incentive for early registration:** If you register by Oct. 16 (postmark or timestamp) you are entitled to pick up on the day of the conference a coupon for \$2.00 off a purchase made at the MCGT table.

# 2015 Kids Program Course Descriptions

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

### Kindergarten - Second Grade

**A101 Bruce the Bug Guy is Back!** Perennial favorite, Dr. Bruce Giebink returns with his traveling bug show of live and no-longer-alive creatures! With a hands-on approach to entomology, Dr. Giebink brings bugs of all sizes, from arthropods to tarantulas. Attendees will learn survival skills, habitats and other creature features, as well as create their own arly creepy crawler! Parents appreciate Dr. Giebink's No Bug Left Behind (or taken home) policy! *Instructor:* Bruce Giebink, Dr. of Entomology and author of the MN Bug Hunt, has been involved in research and insect curricula for nearly 30 years. His engaging and safe program is presented in schools and libraries throughout the state, and has been featured on local television programs as well. MN Bug Hunt will be available for purchase.

**A102 Help Animals through Art** (see 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> PM description)

**A103 Tinkering with Legos** Love Legos? Legos and machines? Even better! While learning a bit of engineering and design using levers, gears and pulleys we'll make a zip line, pick up tools and other gizmos! Then we'll apply what we learned to tackle a series of challenges. Students won't be able to take their creations home, but photos and videos will be posted online so families can see what their students made. (Photos posted online will not include children's faces. If you have concerns about this, please speak with the instructor before the session). *Instructor:* Peter Hoh was a 4th grade teacher who rewrote science curriculum to encourage hands-on activities and has been teaching at the Science Museum of Minnesota since 1995, with a special interest in the basic principles of physics. He developed several classes that use LEGO toys to teach engineering and mechanics.

### Third - Fourth Grade

**A201 Curious Cultures** Fascinated by anthropology of the ancients? We'll look at Egypt and China and discover some things about ourselves in the process! The artifacts of long ago reveal the stories and beliefs of the people who created them. These beliefs, carried to the tomb, lead us to discover wealth of the ages. Which of your riches (including non-material things) would you "bury" for posterity? What would future generations learn from you and your current culture? *Instructor:* Natasha Poppe, with interests in Asian art, ceramic and painted art, and years teaching art education, is a welcome addition to the conference this year. Ms. Poppe has studied Studio and Graphic Art, and avidly works from a studio in St. Paul.

**A202 Marble Contraptions** Play with springs and rubber bands that roll and shoot marbles. Design a work of art that drops marbles into a maze of do-dads and gizmos. Spin your imagination with the magic of marbles! *Instructor:* Jef Pokorney teaches invention and creativity with an emphasis on building self esteem. He currently teaches at Leonardo's Basement and for a variety of creativity conferences. His creation of a clear canoe is a favorite invention, as well as his recently published children's book, *Pedal Plane*, which will be available for purchase.

**A203 Diggin' It!** (see K-2<sup>nd</sup> PM description)

**A204 A Playful Path to Problem Solving and Drawing Board Geometry**

This session will consist of two different Math sessions taught by two enthusiastic math experts. For *A Playful Path to Problem Solving*, we'll explore powerful problem solving strategies by playing a wide variety of math-related games. Most of the games will require very little mathematical sophistication to play, but will require some subtle thinking to solve! All in good fun! *Instructor:* Richard Ruzzyck is also one of the keynote speakers at the conference and his bio is on the back page of the registration brochure. For *Drawing Board Geometry*, we'll combine geometry with fractions, measurement, and art using Dry Erase Board, T-Square, 30°-60° Triangle, 45°-90° Triangle and Safe-T Compass. Without "measuring", construct and divide regular polygons, explore circle art and possibly make your own tangram set. *Instructor:* Rosine Hermodson-Olsen loves playing with and teaching mathematics to people of all ages. Most recently, she has been the mathematics specialist in a Montessori school.

### Fifth - Seventh Grade

**A301 Alien Worlds Returns!** *This is an all-day class. Sign up for both A301 and P311.* (See description for PM)

**A302 Drawing Board Geometry and A Playful Path to Problem Solving**

This session will consist of two different Math courses taught by two enthusiastic math experts. For *Drawing Board Geometry*, we'll combine geometry with fractions, measurement, and art using Dry Erase Board, T-Square, 30°-60° Triangle, 45°-90° Triangle and Safe-T Compass. Without "measuring", construct and divide regular polygons, explore circle art and possibly make your own tangram set. *Instructor:* Rosine Hermodson-Olsen loves playing with and teaching mathematics to people of all ages. Most recently, she has been the mathematics specialist in a Montessori school. For *A Playful Path to Problem Solving*, we'll explore powerful problem solving strategies by playing a wide variety of math-related games. Most of the games will require very little mathematical sophistication to play, but will require some subtle thinking to solve! All in good fun! *Instructor:* Richard Ruzzyck is also one of the keynote speakers at the conference and his bio is on the back page of the registration brochure.

## Afternoon (1:30 - 4:30 p.m.)

### Kindergarten - Second Grade

**P111 Diggin' It!** Have you ever thought of what it takes for food to get from the farm to your plate-dirt to dinner? Tie on your bandana for this adventure! Examine the rich world of dirt under a microscope. Then plant an edible that you can take home. Explore a season on the farm. What service providers, pollinators, will you need for your food stuffs to grow? We'll wrap up by scrubbing up our green thumbs to prepare some fresh snacks for our very own hoedown party. Get ready for some guitar tunes and a stompin' good time. *Instructor:* Sophie Breen is a Spanish major with concentrations in Education and Race and Ethnic Studies at St. Olaf College where she will graduate with a teaching license for English as a Second Language. This past summer she worked as program staff at Camp Knutsen for campers with various skin conditions, heart diseases, and varying levels of autism and Down's syndrome.

**P113 Tinkering with Legos** (see AM description)

**P411 Bruce the Bug Guy is Back!** *Multi-grade class* (See K-2 AM class description)

### Third - Fourth Grade

**P211 Help Animals through Art** Love creating art? Love animals too? Let's put those passions together! We'll look at the world's endangered animals and explore their habitats (mysterious oceans, majestic mountains, tropical forests). Then, you'll create vibrant works of art in honor and support of our furry, feathered, and scaly friends. Use shading and fun materials like suede board, and graphite to bring your compositions to life! All artistic abilities welcome! *Instructor:* Kris Holtmeyer, owner of Artistic Moments, is passionate to provide fine arts instruction to all ages, and is herself a multi-media artist. In addition, Ms. Holtmeyer is President of the Plymouth Arts Council, an advisor for the MNYC Youth Outreach Program, an educator in District 287, and board member of several local arts organizations

**P212 Marble Contraptions** (see AM description)

**P213 Harry Potter Potions** Calling all Hogwarts wizards! Join the fun as fantasy and fact are swirled together to create bewitching events in the world of alchemy. Apparate from one adventure to another as we experiment with dry ice, mysterious liquids and the ever-changing matter. Make a take-home potion, but remember, "You are here to learn the subtle science and exact art of potion-making. As there is little foolish wand-waving here, many of you will hardly believe this is magic." Beware the power in your hands! *Instructor:* Sam Horak graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Early Childhood Education. A licensed teacher since 1996, Sam is passionate about teaching science and ecology to students of all backgrounds and has done so for more than twenty years. When she is not teaching, Sam is an avid outdoors woman.

**P411 Bruce the Bug Guy is Back!** *Multi-grade class* (See K-2 AM class description)

**P412 Curious Cultures** *Multi-grade class* (See 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> AM class description)

### Fifth - Seventh Grade

**P311 Alien Worlds Returns!** *This is an all-day class. Sign up for both A301 and P311.* Is there such a thing as a 'realistic alien'? Can't wait for December 18 for your "aliens" fix? Are you as creative as the authors of GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY? In this class we will create worlds, populate them with plants, microorganisms and animals while paying attention to biology, physics, and chemistry. We'll choose ONE life form and evolve it to intelligence, then create culture, language and artifacts for them. It's a fascinating FULL DAY class as we also talk about the possibility of life on other worlds, draw our own, critique famous movie aliens and view a few from Discovery Channel's Alien Planet. *Instructor:* Guy Stewart, author and long time Science Educator in an IB high school, is another perennial favorite at the conference, engaging attendees with his combination of science and science fiction. His book, *Heirs of the Shattered Spheres* is a young adult sci-fi fantasy will be available for purchase.

**P312 Training the Eye for CSI** Do you enjoy puzzles, mysteries, or medical topics? In this course we will learn investigative skills to identify substances, compare fingerprints, scrutinize blood patterns, and question tooth patterns! Great fun for the budding gum-shoe or medical scientist! *Instructor:* Sarah Summers has studied both molecular and biological science. With a background in emergency health, Ms. Summers now teaches Health Science in the Mankato School District as well as medical investigation to curious high schoolers at Scrubs Camp each summer.

**P412 Curious Cultures** *Multi-grade class* (See 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> AM class description)

**P411 Bruce the Bug Guy is Back!** *Multi-grade class* (See K-2 AM class description)

## MIXED AGE CLASS OFFERINGS

The nature of these classes allow for differentiated instruction to meet the needs of grade levels as designated. For all MCGT Kids Program offerings, registration is limited to the grade levels and times as listed.

**PM Grades 1-7 P411 Bruce the Bug Guy is Back!** See K-2 AM class description

**PM Grades 3-7 P412 Curious Cultures** See 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> AM class description

**All Kids Program Class Sizes are Limited – Remember to Register Early**

# 2015 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 information on keynote speakers.
- ✓ Indicate lunch preferences.
- ✓ Registration deadline is October 26, 2015 to guarantee a lunch.

## STUDENT REGISTRATION

- ✓ Every child must register and attend with parent or guardian who is registered for the conference. Postcards will be sent by November 1st to confirm each child's class choices.
- ✓ Cost per child is \$35.00.
- ✓ Registrations with postmarks of October 16 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 26, 2015.

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 \_\_\_\_

Questions? [www.mcgt.net](http://www.mcgt.net) or [info@mcgt.net](mailto:info@mcgt.net)

## Lunch Choices

Please indicate a sandwich or pizza and beverage choice for each registered adult and child. All sandwich lunches come with a bag of chips and cookie. Gluten free bread & carrots are available upon request – please indicate whether turkey or ham sandwich lunch needs to be gluten free. All pizza selections come with a cookie.

### Sandwich:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Turkey, Provolone, Lettuce and Tomato on Multi-Grain Bread
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ham, Swiss, Lettuce and Tomatoes on Ciabatta
- \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian Wrap: Hummus, Roasted Peppers, Tomatoes, Cucumbers and Spinach Leaves Rolled in a Tortilla Wrap

### Pizza:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Cheese Pizza (2 large slices)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pepperoni Pizza (2 large slices)

### Beverage:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Juice \_\_\_\_\_ Milk \_\_\_\_\_ 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, Robbinsdale Area Schools and Conference participants of any liability for injuries or damages incurred to myself/child/spouse while participating in the 2015 MCGT Conference. By attending the 2015 MCGT Annual Conference, attendees agree to allow their names, likenesses and images either in audio, photographic or video format, recorded onsite during the conference to be used by MCGT for educational, promotional, and archival purposes.

### Fees Enclosed

- Adult member - \$55 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Nonmember - \$70 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Second adult in the family - \$25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Number of children \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- MCGT membership fee - \$35/year or \$65/2 years
- ( \_\_\_ new \_\_\_ renewal ) Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 2nd Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ \$16/yr \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Register online at [www.mcgt.net](http://www.mcgt.net) or Make checks payable to and send to:  
MN Council for the Gifted & Talented – 5701 Normandale Rd., Suite 315 – Edina, MN 55424

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Morning Keynote Speaker – Layne Kalbfleisch

## **Gifted, Twice Exceptional, and The Study of Each (Both) – Emerging Insights from Cognitive Neuroscience**

– An active question alive in the field centers on aspects of giftedness that may mimic behavioral qualities of psychological, learning, or psychiatric conditions. How do you discern between giftedness and impairment based on behavior? How can you characterize twice-exceptionality more precisely (in cases of specific learning disability, dyslexia, attention disorder, and autism spectrum disorder)? What is the nature of asynchrony in some gifted children? Recent evidence suggests that asynchrony is connected to the relationship between certain aspects of intelligence and executive function. In fact, this relationship may account for many of the idiosyncrasies we observe about giftedness on the individual level and provide a pragmatic means for bridging the gaps between assessment, identification, and support in both the classroom and the therapeutic environment. While this work is newly emerging and 'in progress, based on information from the most recent neuroscience in the study of giftedness and of twice exceptional, new information will be presented that offers the listener distinct pathways for inquiry, insight, and new understanding.

# Afternoon Keynote Speaker – Richard Rusczyk

**Problem Solving: A 21st Century Education** – The professional landscape moves quickly now, and will move much faster in the world today's students will shape. Preparing students for these rapid changes requires more than simply imparting specific skills that may quickly be obsolete. In this address, Rusczyk will discuss the shortcomings of the traditional approach to math education, and remedies to help prepare students for rigorous college classes and competitive careers. While the talk will focus on math-related topics, many of the issues we'll discuss are relevant to other areas of study.

**Adult Session Titles:** A complete list and description of adult sessions will be provided at the conference and also available on the website in October.. You will be free to go to any sessions the day of the conference – this listing is tentative and for informational purposes only.

- Answers to "Who Am I?" and How to Find "True Peers" for Gifted Children
- Awakening Greatness in Children – Channeling Intensity to Immensity
- Back on Track: Emotion, Regulation, and Executive Functioning in Gifted Kids
- Brain Research
- Brains on Fire: Preserving the Internal Flame Without Self-Combusting
- Differentiated Curriculum For All Gifted Learners
- Expanding Educational Options: Individual Advocacy
- Forty Year Survey of Parent Referrals for Gifted Assessment
- Getting the Most from your School Staff Conference
- The Gifted Education Culture: Parents, Educators and Administrators
- Gifted Students with Mathematical Disabilities: Math Remediation vs Classroom Instruction
- Grade Level Acceleration: When, Why and How?
- Homeschool Options and Ideas – Q & A Panel
- Identification without Instrumentation
- Inner Critic or Inner Cheerleader: Self-Talk for Self-Confident Kids
- Levels of Gifted: How Smart Is your Child?
- Live Brain Feedback that Controls Music Volume to Enhance Calm, Attention and Performance
- MindCraft: Crafting Gifted Minds, Hearts and Bodies Through Play
- Opening Gifted Minds from the Inside Out
- Preschool Gifted Children
- Perfectionism: Origins and Antidotes
- Powerful Strategies to Enhance Learning and Promote Success Among Gifted Children
- Practical Activities to Improve Reading, Writing, and Thinking with Gifted Students
- Q & A and Book Signing Session with Keynote Speakers & Minnesota Authors
- Revisiting the Information Processing Model: Learning for the Gifted and the Twice Exceptional
- Social Emotional Well Being of Gifted Kids
- Strategies for Assisting the Gifted / LD Student with Writing Difficulties
- The Shadowland: Depression, Anxiety and Suicide Among the Gifted
- What We Learned Our First Year: Identifying and Educating Students Who Are Twice Exceptional
- When, How, and Why of Assessment
- Where Do Good Ideas Come From?

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 and parent groups throughout the state provide opportunities for local activities.

For more information, check the website [www.mcgt.net](http://www.mcgt.net), email [info@mcgt.net](mailto:info@mcgt.net) or call 952-848-4906.