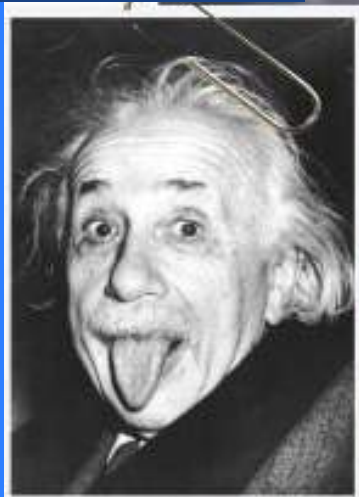


THE GAMBIT

The Official Publication of the
Gifted Association of Missouri

Winter 2021



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A CALL TO ACTION!

The start of a new year means the start of a new legislative session, and GAM needs your help if we are going to make a statewide gifted education mandate happen! Inside this issue you'll find important information such as which state legislators currently sit on education committees and who you could contact to voice your support. We are additionally running a postcard campaign so that our bright young students can still make their voices fully heard even if the traditional GAM Day at the Capitol will be moving to a virtual format. Postcards and letters can be short and sweet - a sample template is included within as well.

With the help of you and your students, we can get this done!

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Meredith Wisniewski



Happy new year! It's officially 2021, an eagerly anticipated milestone. For me it's also the start of a new semester of school, which is hard to believe. I feel like I always (well, almost always) say how quickly a school year goes by, but this year truly feels different. Every time I felt like I had finally found my footing, a new change emerged that pushed me back to square one. I had students moving from virtual to seated instruction; I had students moving from one period to another to balance class sizes and maintain social distancing; I was even moved to a different classroom. I felt like I was experiencing my own educational version of the movie "Groundhog Day" -- each change meant, essentially, another first day of school.

To be clear, my issues are not unique or even as challenging as others; I certainly don't take my situation for granted. All educators -- in our programs, in our districts, in our state -- are feeling some kind of way about this school year. I've spoken to many teachers about how gifted looks this year, and while there are so many different modes of instruction happening there is one constant: gifted educators in Missouri are doing amazing things for their students. Teachers are coming up with engaging ways to reach students through virtual platforms. Robotics kits, STEAM packages, and other supplies are being assembled and sent to homes so students can continue with hands-on learning. Virtual events are being planned to keep families connected. I am in awe of the dedication, creativity, and care gifted educators are showing. Is it easy? Absolutely not. It's okay not to be okay, and right now the unknowns are a lot to handle. However, we are all here to support one another.

The continuing commitment to provide gifted services to students and to support educators and families during this time is more important than ever. As such, we are once again moving forward with our goal of a gifted mandate in Missouri. Representative Aaron Griesheimer and Senator Denny Hoskins have sponsored legislation to require every school in Missouri to provide gifted programs and services for gifted students. House Bill 306 and Senate Bill 151 represent GAM's belief in the power of what we do. Pandemic or not, we know why gifted education matters and constantly keep that in the forefront. This new year wouldn't be complete without a resolution, so we resolve to fight the good fight for and with you.

Here's to 2021 and to safety, health, and happiness for all,

Meredith Wisniewski



DESE Gifted Education Update

Christine Nobbe

Director, Gifted Education

Christine.Nobbe@dese.mo.gov

573.751.7754

Happy 2021 Greetings from Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education!

In my January 2020 update, I predicted that “2020 will be a banner year for gifted education!” And it was, but not in the way I was imagining. Thank you for working so hard to meet the needs of your students, to advocate for gifted programs, and continuing to grow professionally. I hope 2021 brings some relief from the stresses we encountered in 2020 and that we see continued growth in gifted education in Missouri.

Since I wrote my last column in September, I have:

- participated in the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine trial (I mention this in case you have questions about the vaccine);
- attended monthly Missouri Green Schools committee meetings;
- acted as CSDPG treasurer (Council of State Directors of Programs for the Gifted);
- represented gifted education at a variety of virtual meetings hosted by DESE and community organizations;
- hosted Gifted and Talented Tuesdays and additional Space Talks;

- provided frequent updates via the Gifted-Ed listserv (if you haven’t joined, please do so with this [link](#));
- worked closely with the [Advisory Council on the Education of Gifted and Talented Children](#) (the Council), including the Council’s Rural and Small Schools Committee and the Administrator Cohort Committee;
- participated in GAM’s, CSDPG’s, and NAGC’s virtual conferences;
- moved to a new office (see selfie!);
- learned that [NUMATS](#) and [BESTS](#) can provide talent identification services and off-grade level testing;
- worked with the Office of Data System Management to create [maps](#), a [Missouri gifted education report](#), and updated [District/Charter reports](#); and
- started the annual gifted education desk audits (if you are the official gifted contact, please watch for emails verifying data).

It is an ongoing goal to increase nominations for Missouri Scholars Academy and now is the time to nominate students. Essential links:

- <https://moscholars.missouri.edu/> (MSA homepage)
- <https://moscholars.missouri.edu/2021-academy-nominations-are-open/> (MSA nominations)
- <https://moscholars.missouri.edu/work/> (applications for faculty/staff)

If you haven’t nominated students and need guidance, please contact me.

I am looking forward to Gifted and Talented Tuesdays, January-May 2021. The information is posted in the Quick Links of the DESE Gifted Education webpage: <https://dese.mo.gov/quality-schools/gifted-education> . Look for [Gifted and Talented Tuesdays](#) and [Space Talks for Students](#) fliers with the schedule and the link to join the meetings.

I am excited to host students on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM for Space Talks. If that time doesn't work for you, please contact me to schedule a virtual event.

I am delighted to have several guest speakers on the third and fourth Tuesdays, which could be considered PD minutes.

Third Tuesdays, 3:30 – 4:30 PM

- January 19 – WebQuests; Sheila Bonner
- February 16 – Equity and Gifted Education; Dr. Pam Washington
- March 16 – Equity Audit for Gifted Programs
- April 20 – Curriculum and Instruction; Marissa Cochran
- May 18 – Creativity (looking for a speaker!)

Fourth/Fifth Tuesdays, 3:30 – 4:30 – Book Study; [Brain-Based Learning with Gifted Students](#) by Dr. Kathryn Fishman-Weaver

- January 26 – Introduction to Book
- February 23 – Presentation by the Author

- March 23 & 30 – Explore Lessons
- April 27 – Share Lesson Results

Please check out the fliers for further information. I am holding off on making plans for summer workshops until early March. I would love to hear from you about topics you would like to explore and if you would like to be a guest speaker.

Great things are happening in gifted classrooms in Missouri. Please send me your success stories! When I get opportunities to share cool things that are happening I refer to my folder of “Success Stories.”

I look forward to GAM Day at the Capitol on February 23rd. At the time I am writing this I am not sure if this will be a virtual or in-person event, but I hope you and your students can participate.

-Christine



To access the links in this article, please go to: bit.ly/Jan21DESEupdate



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Teachers seeking Missouri Gifted Certification may enroll online as post-baccalaureate students without making an application to a degree program.

Courses may be taken in any order beginning in any semester.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Nancy Gerardy
Gifted Education Program Coordinator
Special Education Department
GerardyN@missouri.edu
573-268-7766

SUMMER SEMESTER 2021

- Readings in Gifted Education (SPC_ED 8085, master's program students only)
- Research with Exceptional Children (SPC_ED 8350)
- Curriculum Methods for Gifted and Talented Students (SPC_ED 8391)
- Differentiating Instruction: Reaching Gifted, Typical and Struggling Learners (SPC_ED 8406)
- Administration and Supervision of Gifted Programs (SPC_ED 8410)

FALL SEMESTER 2021

- Curriculum Methods for Gifted and Talented Students (SPC_ED 8391)
- Assessment and Evaluation in Gifted Education (SPC_ED 8405)
- Differentiating Instruction: Reaching Gifted, Typical and Struggling Learners (SPC_ED 8406)
- Practicum: Gifted Education (SPC_ED 8946)

SPRING SEMESTER 2022

- Research with Exceptional Children (SPC_ED 8350)
- Nature and Needs of Gifted and Talented Students (SPC_ED 8380)
- Assessment and Evaluation in Gifted Education (SPC_ED 8405)
- Differentiating Instruction: Reaching Gifted, Typical and Struggling Learners (SPC_ED 8406)
- Practicum: Gifted Education (SPC_ED 8946)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Kyna Iman

Through the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the unfolding unrest at the nation's Capitol, Missouri lawmakers returned to Jefferson City on Wednesday, January 6, for the start of the 2021 session. The House elected the first Speaker in state history from eastern Missouri's Arnold, Rob Vescovo. Vescovo has served as the House Majority Floor Leader for three years. Rep. Dean Plocher, R-Town & Country, was elected to replace Vescovo as House Majority Floor Leader. Rep. Crystal Quade, D-Springfield, will continue to serve as the House Minority Leader.

Dave Schatz, R-Sullivan, was re-appointed to serve as President Pro Tem of the Senate. Senator John "JJ" Rizzo, D-Independence, will serve as Minority Leader.

Republicans control the Missouri House this session 114-47, and they control the Senate 24-10. The GOP has supermajorities in both chambers, and Governor Mike Parson is a Republican.

The Capitol is still open to the public, though public seating will be spaced out in the House and Senate Committee hearings for social distancing. The Senate and House will also provide livestreams of their committee hearings and sessions (the Senate only provides audio).

On Friday, members of the Consent and House Procedures Committee approved several changes to House Rules, including those on remote testimony. Under the proposal (which will now go to the full House for a vote) witnesses wishing to deliver testimony on bills virtually would be required to provide prior notice and would then be put on a schedule created by the chair or ranking member of the committee.

In the Senate, they enacted its own new rules Thursday, with President Pro Tem Dave Schatz spearheading a resolution allowing members to receive bills and amendments digitally rather than waiting for a paper copy.

Missouri will officially kick off its bicentennial celebration with the inauguration of Governor Mike Parson for his second term on Monday morning. Lt. Gov. Mike Kehoe, Attorney General Eric Schmitt, Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft and Treasurer Scott Fitzpatrick will also be sworn in Monday alongside Parson on the South Lawn of the Capitol in Jefferson City. The ceremony starts at 11 a.m., and is open to the public. The event can be livestreamed on the Moving MO Forward website.

The inaugural ball has been postponed with the date to be announced later. It will be held to coincide with Missouri's bicentennial celebrations later this summer. In 1821, the Show Me State was the 24th state to join the union. More information about the continuing bicentennial celebration can be found at the Missouri 2021 website.

House Bill 306, sponsored by Rep. Aaron Griesheimer, and Senate Bill 151, sponsored by Senator Denny Hoskins, which requires school districts with a certain number of gifted students to establish a state-approved program for such students, has been pre-filed.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with GAM this legislative session! Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at kynaiman@earthlink.net.



Summer Science & Robotics Program

July 12-16 & 19-23, 2021

The Maryville Science and Robotics Program is a premier academic summer program offering more than 80 courses for ages 4-12 taught by highly qualified faculty including professors, STEM professionals, and teachers with advanced education including gifted, early childhood, and STEM certification.

- Hands-on, creative experiences with cutting-edge technologies.
- Includes all aspects of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM).
- Full and half day options: Take up to four exciting courses!
- Lunch available for full-day participants.
- Before and after care available.
- Faculty/staff to participant ration of 1:6.
- Need help deciding on courses? Email or call us!



Teen Tech @MaryvilleU

July 12-16 & 19-23, 2021

Be a STEM innovator while gaining college experience. For students currently in 6th 7th and 8th grade. Using university technology you could create augmented reality, the next esports game, viral videos, and escape rooms. Have fun mastering STEM skills in Teen Tech.

- Hands-on experiences with cutting-edge technologies
- Learn STEM from degreed faculty for one or two weeks.



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MO House & Senate Education Committees

House Subcommittee on Appropriations – Education

Representative Rusty Black, Chair
Representative Brenda Shields, Vice Chair
Representative John Black
Representative Ingrid Burnett
Representative Ed Lewis
Representative Kevin Windham

Elementary and Secondary Education

Representative Chuck Basye, Chair
Representative Mike Haffner, Vice Chair
Representative Paula Brown, Ranking Minority Member
Representative Ben Baker
Representative Gretchen Bangert
Representative Rusty Black
Representative Phil Christofanelli
Representative Bruce DeGroot
Representative Shamed Dogan
Representative Derek Grier
Representative Ron Hicks
Representative Justin Hill
Representative Ian Mackey
Representative Maggie Nurrenbern
Representative Jonathan Patterson
Representative Brad Pollitt
Representative Mark Sharp
Representative Dan Stacy
Representative Marlene Terry
Representative Cheri Toalson Reisch

Education

Senator Cindy O’Laughlin, Chair
Senator Rick Brattin, Vice Chair
Senator Mike Cierpiot
Senator Elaine Gannon
Senator Andrew Koenig
Senator Bob Onder
Senator Jill Schupp
Senator Lauren Arthur
Senator Greg Razer

STUDENT POSTCARD CAMPAIGN

Even though GAM Day at the Capital has been postponed this year, there is still a great way to get your gifted students involved in the political process! First, have them visit the two state websites below, and then have them participate in the GAM Postcard Campaign! A simple example form has been provided below.

<https://www.senate.mo.gov/Newsroom/kidspage/index.html>

<https://www.senate.mo.gov/did-you-know-home/>

Dear Representative or Senator _____ :

My name is _____. I attend _____ school and am in the _____ grade. I am writing to respectfully request you to support more programs and services for gifted education students in ALL Missouri schools.

I believe that gifted education programs _____

_____.

Sincerely,

Name

Address

Contact Information or School District



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1. Enhance your teaching of gifted and talented students.

Annually Scheduled Accelerated Courses – ALL ONLINE!

ED 550G – Introduction to Gifted and Talented (June 1–July 2, 2021)

ED 609G – Teaching Internship (March 3–May 5, 2021)

ED 650G – Identification of Gifted (July 6–August 6, 2021)

ED 651G – Curriculum for Gifted (August 23–December 17, 2021)

ED 652G – Meeting Affective Needs of Gifted Children (June 1–July 2, 2021)

ED 653G – Programming, Planning, and Development: Administration and Supervision of Gifted Programs (July 6–August 6, 2021)

Most of these courses are scheduled during the summer months for your convenience.

In addition to these courses, DESE requires “Psychology of the Exceptional Child” for gifted certification, as well as a research course, and an internship if you have not met the teaching requirements. Most teachers completed the Psychology course and a research course during their initial teaching certification, which typically meets these requirements. Truman offers these courses if you need them. The internship is offered spring semesters in the second block.

Cost of Courses

Courses are offered to Missouri K-12 teachers at a special rate of \$220 per credit hour.* That's a savings of almost \$500 over the normal Graduate rate!

*Online courses charge an additional \$30 fee to support technology costs.

For More Information

PHONE: 660-785-5384

EMAIL: institute@truman.edu

WEB: pd.truman.edu/gifted

Coming Fall 2021

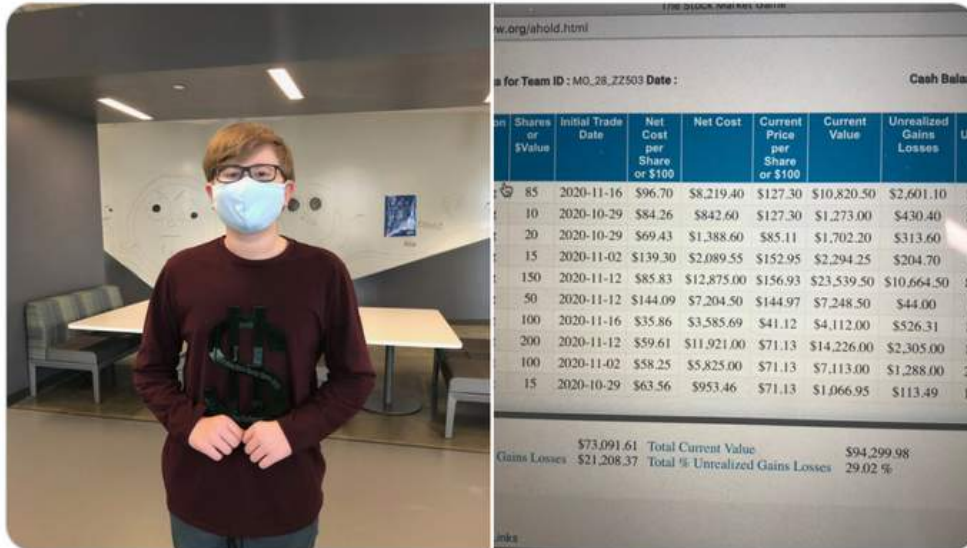
MA in Gifted Education

Contact Graduate Studies for more information:
660-785-7343
gradinfo@truman.edu



Register now! Start at pd.truman.edu/gifted

Congratulations to the Northland Innovation SAGE Center Stock Market class taught by Melissa Duffett! Her team's excellent performance was especially highlighted by her student Holden, who earned 3rd place out of 356 teams in the region. He worked hard to develop a diverse portfolio that delivered an amazing 29% return! Great work, Holden and Ms. Duffett!



College for Kids

A Summer Exploration, Inc.



2021

- JUNE 20 - 25
GRADES 3RD AND 4TH
- JUNE 27 – JULY 2
GRADES 5TH AND 6TH
- JULY 11 - 17
GRADES 7TH, 8TH, & 9TH

Classes are generally limited to 16 students. Registration continues until spaces are filled. All fees and health forms are due by May 15, 2021. A limited amount of financial assistance is available. Scholarships are awarded solely on the basis of eligibility and financial need. Applications must be admitted to College for Kids, A Summer Exploration, Inc. before the application for financial assistance will be considered.

College for Kids is a weeklong, summer residential program for gifted learners – housed on the campus of Westminster College Fulton, MO.

2021 brings exciting classes and activities to College for Kids. CK classes address contemporary issues and problems using a higher level of integrative, analytical, and critical thinking. Class curriculum encourages awareness of and respect for divergence in thought among academic peers. The CK experience also allows students to explore different academic content and methodologies in various disciplines.

College for Kids also addresses the physical needs of all students today. Everyday CK takes time for physical exercise, in various classes and during Recreation time. Exercise and physical fitness are necessary to fully realize one's potential.

Students live in air-conditioned residence halls that are divided into sections for every 10 – 12 students to a Residential Advisor.

For more information:
College for Kids A Summer Exploration, Inc.
P.O. Box 722 Fulton, MO 65251

e-mail - collegeforkids@hotmail.com website – collegeforkids.net phone - 573-642-2935

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Powerful Partnership

Cassie Fogel, the GAM New Teacher Chair, has recently partnered with AY Young to develop an educational program for students called "Become an OUTLET for Change." AY Young is a Kansas City based singer-songwriter, dancer, producer, and non-profit foundation leader. His work with sustainable energy and recent "Battery Tour," where each of his concerts was powered exclusively by batteries, earned him one of only 17 Young Global Leaders for Sustainable Development appointments from the United Nations, out of over 18,000 applications. Most recently, Young even performed at President Biden's Inaugural Ball. For more information, please contact Cassie at Cassie.Fogel@nkcschools.org



MSA announces donation campaign to combat future \$1500 scholar fee

By Xander Negozio

Leadership scrambled to create an all-virtual MSA after the COVID-19 pandemic struck in March, 2020. Staffed solely with volunteers, the makeshift virtual academy was free to all students, but a ragtag bunch of volunteers will not be enough to create future, in-person or virtual academies.

It is still unclear whether or not an in-person academy will be safe in June, 2021, but if so, fundraising efforts will be needed to offset its operating costs. Unless donors can fill the gap in public funding, scholars will be hit with a **\$1500** attendance fee.

A Fraught History

Those who've attended or assisted the academy in recent years know its funding history has been fraught with uncertainty. Each year, past scholars and staffers write to the legislature to plead for continued funding of the program, which costs about half a million dollars to run.

For over 20 years, from 1985 to 2009, MSA was fully funded by the Missouri Legislature under the umbrella of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and had no scholar fee.

From 2010 to 2014, a \$500 scholar fee had to be implemented following a two-thirds cut in state appropriations. MU and the University of Missouri System also partially funded the academy.

Since 2015, it has been a yearly back-and-forth of possible state funding, but the University of Missouri has been able to provide additional gap funding to keep the scholar fee at \$650.

The funding picture for 2021 is much bleaker. MSA has zero funding from the Legislature and no additional university support. Following the pandemic, Governor Parson cut \$131 million from Elementary and Secondary Education and \$41 million from Higher Education, so MU and the UM System have much less ability to support the academy.

Making it Accessible

The scholar fee presents a substantial burden for many families, and coincides with a significant reduction in scholar nominations each year it increases. When MSA first had to have a scholar fee, Director Steve Keller said, its nominations dropped by 20%.

"If that happens again," Associate Director Rachel Harper said, "we might not have enough scholars nominated to run a full 330-person academy."

The financial burden imposed by the scholar fee will also reduce the diversity of socioeconomic backgrounds that make the academy so valuable to students. The academy has long been a place where privilege went out the door, and students from all parts of the state could gather as equals and learn from one another's differences.

“At MSA you get so much exposure to many cultures, and it's important.”

This was the key takeaway of 2018 scholar Ariel Gordon, a poet and self-proclaimed activist from St. Louis Metro High School. After the academy, Gordon was active in both Poetry Club and Debate, and she was also co-president of the Black Student Union.

At the academy, she studied in Doug Valentine's major class “With Friends Like These, Who Needs Hegemonies? Employing the Sociological Imagination.”

“We were able to get in heated debates on deep stuff and respect everyone's opinions, even if we didn't agree. I feel like there was a lot of listening to stuff we don't necessarily believe in, but it's good just to listen. I feel like it's especially important if you have an activist's itch,” she said, “and we're all activists in our own way. You've gotta listen to what people are actually saying.”



Photo Above: Ariel Gordon and MSA faculty member Doug Valentine



Photo Left: Ashlie German and Emma Crocker posing outside their MSA classroom on the last day of class

2019 scholar Emma Crocker, who majored in Stephanie Hasty's course “Race, Place and Identity in Missouri,” said the academy exposed her to an array of perspectives she would never have encountered otherwise.

“I'm from a small town with very little diversity, so this course was one of my first experiences being able to discuss what people of color experience that is different from what I experience as a straight white woman,” she said.

“Before, to be completely honest, I didn't even realize I had an identity. It sounds dumb, but it's true. I felt like there was

nothing special about me to form an identity. However, this course taught me that there are so many more layers to me as a person than I ever could've imagined,” she said.

Going Forward

Founder and MSA Director from 1985 to 2014, Ted Tarkow has long spoken of the value in balancing the state’s investment in lower-performing students with an equal investment in accelerated students.

“As we have argued from the start, it is in the long-term best interest of the state to invest in the talent and potential of really bright students,” he said, “frequently when one looks at the long-term outcomes of investments in remediation, etc., one sees marginal results. The outcomes of investment in talented students are much more promising. Giving bright students the reason to believe that ordinary government and education structures ‘work’ can only strengthen the stability of educational systems, while of course preparing bright minds to help argue for and implement change where it seems necessary.”

MU Honors College Director J.D. Bowers said he personally saw the transformative power of the academy’s programs when his daughter Julia, who is now flourishing in college, attended. Julia said the academy allowed her to explore subjects she never would have discovered otherwise, and gave her research skills she still uses. As a freshman majoring in Classics at the College of William and Mary, she said the academy was valuable both in expanding her social confidence and in nurturing her academic curiosity.



Photo: Julia Bowers (front right) and her MSA House at lunch in the Mark

“As the nation’s first public honors college, our commitment to academic exploration and enrichment, as well as the quest for the internalization of the deeper values of discovery and learning for its own sake, all come together here,” Bowers said.

He said the accomplishments of academy graduates, 40% of whom attend MU, are the reason the Honors

College continues to help coordinate the academy’s logistics and operations year after year.

At Its Roots

In its inception, MSA was intended to support the gifted students across Missouri, who have no statutory right to gifted education. Statewide, gifted education programs vary heavily in content, funding and accessibility. The academy is able to unite students from each corner of the state, and give an equally treasured experience to students from districts with wildly different resources.

Jim Meyer, MSA alumnus turned coordinator of gifted education at Rock Bridge High School in Columbia, said, “A lot of my insights began as a student in the program itself. When I look

back at what I assumed about the guys in my house, and what I grew to know about them over the three weeks, I was very naive.

“On one hand, I was surprised to meet people from so many different walks of life that nevertheless shared so much in common with me interest wise, and I also couldn't assume that because we were all interested in similar things, that we came from similar backgrounds. In some ways, I learned that profoundly with respect to race, but more profoundly with respect to class.”



Photo: Jim Meyer and MSA Taiso Legend Ake Takahashi

“It gives urban kids an opportunity to meet kids from rural Missouri. It gives suburban kids an idea what life is like in an urban environment, and an opportunity to gain empathy.” Meyer said, “They may have assumed that everyone lived like they do, but 16-year-olds live very different lives across the state.”

As an educator, Meyer said MSA has a noticeable impact on students who see what gifted kids can go on to accomplish. MSA asks kids to dream big, he said. Through its programming, MSA shows gifted teens what possibilities are in store for them, giving them representation that raises their self-expectations. MSA taught Jim as a student, and reteaches

him on an annual basis as a staff member, that whatever he wanted out of himself going into June, after three weeks, he wanted more.

Another reason Meyer said MSA is so valuable to the state, and MU specifically, is its legacy.

“It gives people a vision of a college life that might at that point still be really nebulous to them, that involves potentially having a really fulfilling experience at a state school, which they may have decided for a variety of reasons may not be right for them.” Meyer said. “What it can do for a high schooler is provide a model for a lifetime of constant learning and engagement.”

“I don't know if I would have returned to Missouri as a professional if I didn't have this idea of MSA and what it means to be a Missourian.” Meyer said. “There are other programs that offer the stimulation the academy has for a price, but the great thing about it was that MSA didn't have a price.”

Meyer has had talks with Columbia Public Schools about sponsoring the fee for scholars the district nominates, but said he fears the effect it will have on the academy if only wealthy districts can afford to nominate their students.

Those who wish to support future scholars at the academy can also donate to the academy's Mizzou Give Direct page.

MY EXPERIENCE AT MISSOURI SCHOLARS ACADEMY

Sara Venier

My name is Sara Venier and I am from Liberty, Missouri (slightly north of Kansas City). I attended Missouri Scholars Academy in 2014 and graduated from Liberty North High School in 2016. In May 2020, I graduated from the University of Arkansas with a BS in Biology, minors in Mathematics and Marketing, and Magna Cum Laude honors. During undergrad, I had the opportunity to work as a resident assistant at Missouri Scholars Academy in 2017, 2018, and 2019. I also volunteered in the emergency department and conducted research on the impact of traumatic brain injuries in mice. I am currently in my first year at the University of Missouri School of Medicine and so excited to be pursuing a career I'm passionate about!

Missouri Scholars Academy is truly a once in a lifetime experience. It takes young, high-achieving students and challenges them to think beyond their textbooks and the bubbles in which they live. In three short weeks, I learned to chase my curiosities and genuine interests rather than succumbing to the overwhelming stress I felt to perform above the standards in school. I wholeheartedly believe my time at Missouri Scholars Academy shaped not only the remainder of my high school experience, but also the choices I made throughout my undergraduate experience at the University of Arkansas and my first semester of Med School

The central message of Missouri Scholars Academy is "challenge by choice," which encourages scholars to challenge their current views, try new things, and engage with others they may not normally interact with. I love this message and feel it is a mindset everyone can benefit from. To me, challenge by choice meant stepping outside of the traditional pre-medical curriculum and taking courses in marketing, dance, and mathematics that allowed me to diversify my education. It meant forgoing summer shadowing opportunities to return to Missouri Scholars Academy as a Resident Assistant because I wanted to work for the program I loved attending. And, now that I've begun Medical School, it means not being afraid to ask tough, thought-provoking questions of my peers and teachers.

Nearly seven years ago when I sat in Jesse auditorium on opening day of Missouri Scholars Academy, I never could have imagined the continual impact it would have on my life. Now that I've experienced it firsthand as both a scholar and a 3-time resident assistant, I know there is something both big and important occurring on Mizzou's campus every June.

Missouri Scholars Academy changes lives and exposes Missouri's best and brightest to ideas and views that I believe will make them stronger, more inquisitive, and better equipped to make positive and impactful changes in the world around them.



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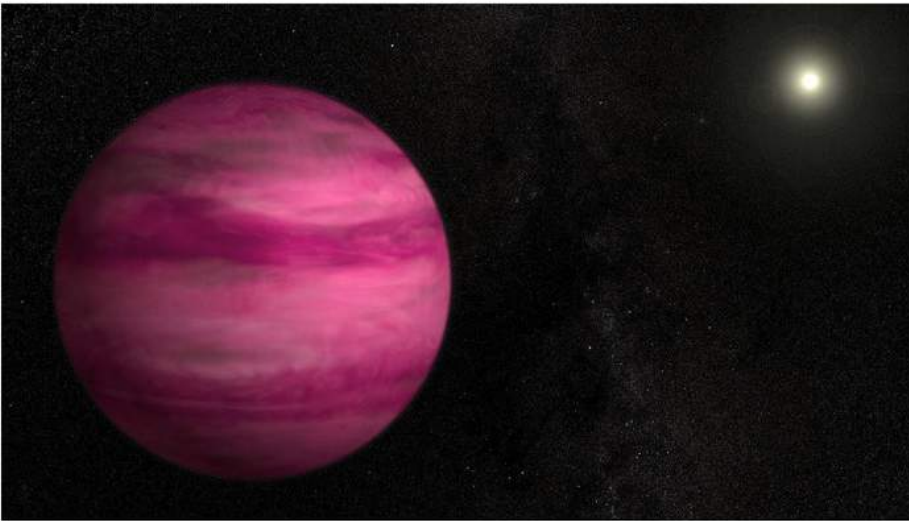
- Earn a high school diploma while completing 60+ hours of college credit
- Engage in hands-on research opportunities with PhD-level faculty.
- Develop leadership skills while experiencing unique civic and co-curricular opportunities.

Discover the opportunities at www.fhsu.edu/ams

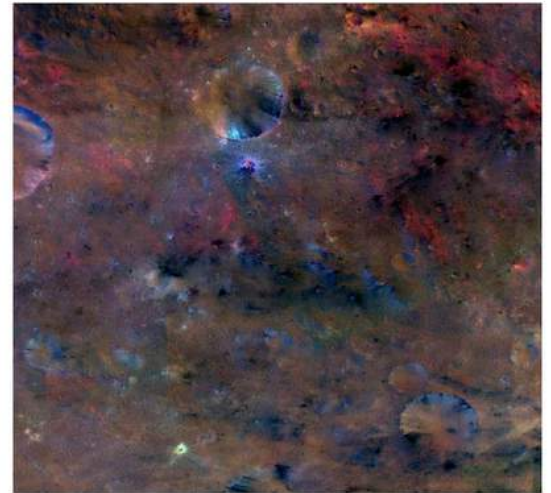
SPACE TALKS FOR STUDENTS

GIFTED &
TALENTED
TUESDAYS

•
FIRST TUESDAY



GJ 504b is about four times more massive than Jupiter and has an effective temperature of about 460 degrees Fahrenheit (237 Celsius). Image Credit: NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center/S. Wiessinger



The crater Sextilia on the giant asteroid Vesta; the image was taken by Dawn's framing camera from September to October 2011. Source: NASA/JPL-Caltech/UCLAMPS/DLR/IDA

**Join me on the First Tuesday of the Month
for Virtual Space Talks!
10:00 AM with Q/A at 10:30 AM**

January 5 – Travel the Universe (repeat from Sept)
February 2 – Alien Worlds (exoplanets & search for life)
March 2 – Women in Space
April 6 – NewSpace (commercial space)
May 4 – Asteroids: Promise or Peril?

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87240819146?pwd=dWdHRGkyLzJwNU5wRE5HclZpVmtHZZ09>

Meeting ID: 872 4081 9146 Passcode: 233755



Ms. Christine Nobbe
Director, Gifted Education, DESE
NASA JPL Solar System Ambassador

Christine.Nobbe@dese.mo.gov

573-751-7754

<https://dese.mo.gov/quality-schools/gifted-education>

Additional details: Virtual students may log in from home or classes may log in from school. Meetings will be recorded for the host to review, but will not be shared. All participants will be muted upon entry. If the host loses internet service, please rejoin in a few minutes. Please share information with gifted students via private methods (like email), rather than social media. Zoom limit is 100 participants. Teachers, please email me if you need additional dates/times for your classes.

Lindbergh/ GAM Gifted Speaker Series



One Monday a month from 7-8 pm.
Please register via Eventbrite. See
links with each speaker's details.

January 11, 2021, 7-8 pm

Dr. Susan Baum, the director of The 2e Center for Research and Professional Development, will join us from Bridges Academy, a school specializing in serving the educational needs of **Twice Exceptional students**, to speak about her experience working with this population of students who are both gifted and have another exceptionality such as a learning disability.

Read more about Dr. Baum here:
<https://www.bridges.edu/susan-baum-phd.html>

Register here:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gifted-speaker-series-dr-susan-baum-serving-2e-students-tickets-121251086263>

February 8, 2021, 7-8 pm

Hollis Moore, a gifted specialist at Kirkwood Schools, will share all sorts of ways to use games to build creative and critical thinking in **Gaming to Learn!** Come share in the fun! Register here:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gaming-to-learn-tickets-132267980089>

March 8, 2021, 7-8 pm

Dr. Tracy Bednarick, Gifted Coordinator for Lindbergh Schools, will present **Summer Engagement Ideas**. She will go over programs available to continue learning in the summer, things you can do at home, and even offer some hands-on activities. Register here:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-gifted-family-guide-to-summer-tickets-132998585349>

No Gifted Speaker Series in April

May 3, 2021 7-8 pm

Dr. Pam Washington, Curriculum Coordinator of Gifted Education at Webster Groves School District, will present **A Deeper Dive Into Equity**.

What does equity mean and look like for gifted students? The discussion will be packed with critical information to help teachers and parents. Topics to be discussed include:

- An equitable gifted identification process
- Resources for gifted students that foster equity
- Authentic learning experiences that encompass equity for students and families

Register here:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gifted-speaker-series-a-deeper-dive-into-equity-tickets-132997805015>

GIFTED AND TALENTED TUESDAYS

More information: Christine.Nobbe@dese.mo.gov

VIRTUAL EVENTS FOR STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND COORDINATORS/ADMINISTRATORS

Tuesdays beginning January 5, 2021

You are invited to join Missouri's gifted and talented community for discussion and inspiration every Tuesday, January 5-May 18, 2021.



First Tuesdays, 10:00 – 10:30 AM w/ Q/A at 10:30 – Space Exploration Talks for Gifted Learners of All Ages

- January 5 – Travel the Universe-repeat from Sept
- February 2–Alien Worlds (exoplanets & search for life)
- March 2 – Women in Space
- April 6 – NewSpace (commercial space)
- May 4 – Asteroids: Promise or Peril?

ALL OF US DO NOT HAVE EQUAL TALENT, BUT ALL OF US SHOULD HAVE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP OUR TALENT.

– JOHN F. KENNEDY

Second Tuesdays, 9:30 – 11:00 (Open House style, drop by anytime to discuss current issues) – Coordinating MO Gifted Education Programs for Coordinators, Directors, Principals, and Central Office Administrators

March 9	January 12
April 13	February 9
May 11	

Third Tuesdays, 3:30 – 4:30 PM – Gifted Education Information for Gifted Education Specialists and Friends of Gifted Education

- January 19 – WebQuests; Sheila Bonner, guest speaker
- February 16 – Equity and Gifted Education; Dr. Pam Washington, guest speaker
- March 16 – Equity Audit for Gifted Programs
- April 20 – Curriculum and Instruction; Marissa Cochran, guest speaker
- May 18 - Creativity

Fourth / Fifth Tuesdays, 3:30 – 4:30 – Book Study for G/T Community; Brain-Based Learning with Gifted Students by Dr. Kathryn Fishman-Weaver

- January 26 – Introduction to Book
- February 23 – Presentation by the Author
- March 23 & 30 – Explore Lessons (and try them)
- April 27 – Share Lesson Results

ZOOM INFORMATION

Zoom Meeting Link (this is the same for every Gifted and Talented Tuesday meeting):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87240819146?pwd=dWdHRGkyLzJwNU5wRE5HclZpVmtHZz09>

Meeting ID: 872 4081 9146 Password: 233755

One tap mobile:

+13126266799,,87240819146#,,,,0#,,233755# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,87240819146#,,,,0#,,233755# US (New York)



See you this Spring!

Please submit an article or advertisement
for the Spring GAMbit!

Due date: April 15

Send to: Alex Pagnani, pagnani@ucmo.edu