

# GREAT News!

Governor Jeremiah "Jay" Nixon signed Senate Bill 638 into law. The omnibus education bill contained language for gifted education.

This act prohibits school districts from determining whether a child is gifted based on the child's participation in an advanced placement course or international baccalaureate course. Whether a child is gifted must be determined using the statutory definition of "gifted children". (Section 162.720)

Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, this act also reduces a district's funding as described in the act when it experiences a decrease in its gifted program enrollment of 20% or more from the previous school year. This provision shall not apply to school districts with an average daily attendance of three hundred fifty or less. (Section 163.031)

For a summary of the entire bill, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/hswyqel>  
([http://www.senate.mo.gov/16info/BTS\\_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=22246585](http://www.senate.mo.gov/16info/BTS_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=22246585))



Thank you for your advocacy efforts. GAM has had this on our legislative advocacy agenda for two years. The legislation will go into effect beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

If you have questions, please contact GAM Governmental Consultant, Kyna Iman at [kynaiman@earthlink.net](mailto:kynaiman@earthlink.net).

*Celebrating 35 Years*

# All the Good Stuff Inside!

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**We want YOU to be a part of the GAMbit!**

Tell us about your students or write an article! We want to hear from our GT teachers and parents!

# Gifted Association of Missouri

## President

Lenae Lazzelle  
[llazzell@drury.edu](mailto:llazzell@drury.edu)

## Executive Vice President

Peggy Pennington  
[ppennington@penningtonweb.net](mailto:ppennington@penningtonweb.net)

## Vice President – Conference

Ashli Eaves  
[aeaves@camdentonschools.org](mailto:aeaves@camdentonschools.org)

## Vice President – Membership

Meredith Burstin  
[mburs10@hotmail.com](mailto:mburs10@hotmail.com)

## Vice President – Finance

Shannon Fuller  
[Mrssf Fuller99@gmail.com](mailto:Mrssf Fuller99@gmail.com)

## Secretary

Ginger Beard  
[beardg@bernie.k12.mo.us](mailto:beardg@bernie.k12.mo.us)

## DIRECTORS

**A – Sara Ludlow**  
[sludlow@hotmail.com](mailto:sludlow@hotmail.com)

**B – Lezlie Waltz**  
[Lezlie.Waltz@raypec.org](mailto:Lezlie.Waltz@raypec.org)

**C – Heather Hodes**  
[Heather.Hodes@nkcschools.org](mailto:Heather.Hodes@nkcschools.org)

**D – Erica McConnaughey**  
[edmcconnaughey@spsmail.org](mailto:edmcconnaughey@spsmail.org)

**E – Tara Hale**  
[Tara.Hale@fpsk12.org](mailto:Tara.Hale@fpsk12.org)

**F – Tracy Murphy**  
[tjmurphy@district.hannibal.k12.mo.us](mailto:tjmurphy@district.hannibal.k12.mo.us)

**G – Ruthie Caplinger**  
[Ruthie.caplinger@jcschools.us](mailto:Ruthie.caplinger@jcschools.us)

**H – Teresa Shelton**  
[tshelton@lamar.k12.mo.us](mailto:tshelton@lamar.k12.mo.us)

The GAMbit is published quarterly by the Gifted Association of Missouri (GAM) to inform educators, parents, and others about the unique educational, social and emotional needs of gifted and talented children and the issues that impact their development.

Publication of information does not imply endorsement of programs or events by the Gifted Association of Missouri unless such endorsement is specifically stated.

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Submissions for publication, inquiries, and comments are encouraged. Send to [Sheila\\_Bonner@idschools.org](mailto:Sheila_Bonner@idschools.org)

## You're Invited - Calendar of Events

### 2016-17 Saturday STEM Seminars

Extreme Screen at Union Station, KC (9-10am)

Register at <https://goo.gl/njqKme>

- November 5, 2016  
"Bringing Natural History to Life"
- November 19, 2016 - "Keeping our Medicines Safe"
- December 3, 2016 - "Inside Atoms: Hunting for the Higgs Boson and Other Subatomic Particles"
- February 4, 2017 - "A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words - The History and Future of the Hubble Space Telescope"
- February 25, 2017  
"A Day in the Life of an Orthopedic Surgeon"
- March 4, 2017 - "Move over Ben Franklin: The Power and Future of Today's Electric Vehicles"

October 30, November 6, November 13  
Project MEGSSS AMC 8 Masterclass  
(2-4 p.m., Sundays at Maryville University)

November 20, AMC 8 Math Contest hosted by  
Project MEGSSS (2-3 p.m. at Maryville University)

**March 1<sup>st</sup> is GAM  
day in Jefferson City!**

# Meet Your New GAM President!



Dr. Lenae Lazzelle is the Director of Gifted Education for Springfield Public Schools. She is the administrator for over 900 students in three separate gifted programs: The WINGS program at the Phelps Center for Gifted Education serves gifted students from 36 elementary and 10 middle schools, the BRIDGES program established to meet the needs of gifted students enrolled in 24 of the most under-resourced schools, and the full time middle school gifted program, SCHOLARS, housed within Central High School. Dr. Lazzelle serves on the Missouri Advisory Council on the Education of Gifted and Talented Children, the Gifted Association of Missouri (GAM) President, and the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) Missouri State Affiliate. In addition to teaching at Drury University, she also serves the Drury Center for Gifted

Education as Vice President of Pre-College Programs. Dr. Lazzelle has been recognized by GAM with the Friend of Gifted Award and most recently by NAGC as the 2016 Coordinator of the Year.

Dr. Lazzelle earned her Doctor of Education and Education Specialist degree from Southwest Baptist University. She received a Master in Educational Administration from Missouri State University, a Master in Gifted Education and a Bachelor in Elementary Education from Drury University. Published work includes: *Student Perceptions of Engagement in Part-time and Full-time Gifted Programs* (2015), *Improving Achievement in Minority and Poverty Gifted Populations* (2009), and *Meeting the Needs of Highly Gifted Students* (2001). You can follow Dr. Lazzelle on the Twitter @llazzelle.

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Did you know GAM  
is on Facebook?

Keep up with what is going on in gifted  
by liking us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/MissouriGifted/>

# Meet Your New GAM Board Members!



## **Peggy Pennington, Executive Vice President**

Peggy Pennington is in her 12th year being involved with the Gifted Association of Missouri and teaching gifted classes in the Nevada R-5 School District. She has served the last four years as GAM Executive Board Secretary, been a presenter at the Missouri Conference on Gifted Education, and has also served as a Director and Assistant Director for District H. Peggy has her Bachelors in Elementary Education from Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas as well as a Masters from Mizzou in Educational Psychology with a Focus on Mental Health Practices in Schools. She completed her gifted certification work at Drury and Mizzou. Peggy has had training in Adaptive Schools, eMINTs methods, Success For All, Positive Behavior Support, and Instructional Practices. Peggy lives in Nevada with her husband and two children.



## **Ashli Eaves, Conference Vice President**

In 2008 Ashli graduated with her B.S. in Elementary Education from Northwest Missouri State University. She taught for five years in the regular education classroom before moving to the field of gifted. During that time, she worked on her Master's in Administration and received that degree in 2011 from William Woods University. After moving to the Lake of the Ozarks she completed coursework through the University of Missouri and obtained her certification for gifted education. Currently, she is finishing her Master's in Gifted, Talented, and Creative through Arkansas State University. She has been in the Capstone Gifted Department for four years and LOVES it! As a GAM Board member, she has served as both the District D Director and Assistant Director over the past three years. Ashli is excited to have the opportunity to serve this organization as the next Conference Vice President and looks forward to seeing you at our next conference.



## **Ginger Beard, Secretary**

Ginger Beard teaches gifted K-12 at Bernie R-13 School District. She is married to Rick, a farmer, and has two sons, two daughters-in-law, and five grandchildren. Ginger has been teaching for 20 years in the same district. She has a B.S. in Early Childhood Education and a M.A. in Elementary Education with an emphasis in Gifted Education. She has been the president of the local CTA for several years and is active in MSTA. Ginger has been a Javits-Frazier Scholar for NAGC in 2009 and was awarded the MSTA Meritorious Service award in 2012. Ginger has been serving GAM as the regional District E Director and Assistant Director for several years. She is also the curriculum director for her church. Ginger enjoys reading, traveling, and spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren.



## **2016 GAM State Conference Keynote**

### **Richard D. Courtright, PhD**

Dr. Courtright had many insightful points about gifted in his keynote speech! He covered the myths of gifted education including confirmation bias, truthiness and acceleration. Many classroom teachers fall into two groups – they have never met a truly gifted student or “all” of their students are gifted. While all children have strengths, not all students are gifted. Only five out of 100 students are gifted. When looking for a gifted child, several characteristics may stand out. Gifted students often have a capacity of reflection, early moral concern, complex thought processes, exceptional reasoning ability and engage in divergent thinking.

For many attendees, the three types of teaching was new information that confirmed that different types of teaching fit different circumstances. The acquisition of knowledge by means of lecture or textbook is often used in the classroom. Dr. Courtright cautioned that no more than 30 minutes of lecture should be used and then take time to discuss the information. Another type of teaching is coaching to assist in the development of skills. Activities and questions about skills in problem solving and critical thinking help students master skills. Students also need to develop communication skills. The final type of teaching is Socratic which is an enlarged understanding. The use of questioning about ideas in the discussion of books and arts leads to deeper thinking.

Dr. Courtright also presented a breakout session focusing on Socratic Inquiry. His session gave an overview of the implementation of the Socratic seminar which provides a way to address reading, speaking, listening, and supporting ones answer. This method encourages a difference of opinion and focuses on the teacher asking questions, but the students supporting their ideas with the text or picture. He suggested giving a test of three questions before the seminar to make sure the students have read the selection. By constant questioning of “why” and not confirming if the student is correct, the class digs deeper to answer the big questions posed by the text.

# State of the State of State

## Approved Gifted Education Programs in Missouri

Missouri has seen a decline in school districts with a state approved gifted program. According to the 2015 data, the most recent available data, there were 204 school districts out of 520 school districts and 37 charter Local Education Agencies (LEA's) that had a state approved gifted program. That means only 37% of all possible districts and LEA's had a state approved gifted program. There were over 700 teachers of the gifted and approximately 4% of the total K-12 population was being served in a state approved gifted program.



It is very important that districts submit accurate data in the Core Data Collection System and the Missouri Student Information System (MOSIS) about gifted in order that we have accurate data to inform our decision making. There is a document on the Department of Gifted Education webpage that outlines how to report and submit this data correctly. I encourage all teachers of the gifted to download this document and work with the person(s) in your district responsible for submitting the data to help ensure we get the most accurate data possible on gifted education programming in Missouri.

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), in response to a recommendation made in the 2015 Annual Report of the Advisory Council on the Education of Gifted and Talented Students has produced a document to provide guidance for school districts to more equitably identify and meet the needs of traditionally underrepresented students in state approved gifted education programs. The document provides research based guidance on best practice. It does not mandate any specific policy or practice. All districts are encouraged to review this document and evaluate their existing gifted program to determine if it is providing equitable service to all gifted students.

The implementation of Senate Bill 638's payment adjustment clause does not go into effect until the school year 2017-2018. However, the student enrollment established in the school year 2015-2016 will be used to make that first comparison to determine if a district is serving at least 80% of the total number of students in their state approved gifted program compared to the previous year. This information was sent to districts via an Administrative Memo and it is posted on the Department Gifted webpage. The small school exemption applies only to districts with a total enrollment of 300 or less not to individual school buildings.

If you ever have any questions about Gifted Education in Missouri please do not hesitate to contact me at (573) 751-7754 or [david.welch@dese.mo.gov](mailto:david.welch@dese.mo.gov)

# GAM Celebrates 35 Years

1974

House Bill 474 establishes funding for Gifted at 50% reimbursement.

1981

GAM is formed! Steering Committee includes Dede Smith, Delma Johnson, Dalene Bradford, Shirley King, Russ Johnson, Jolene Schultz and Bob Roach as advisor. The GAMbit is distributed statewide! GAM's bank account opens with \$31! The first annual meeting and state conference is held in Jefferson City. Conference keynote is Dr. Anne Crabbe. Dr. Dee Wyckoff is elected President.

1982

Dede Smith is elected first President of GAM. Task Forces appointed to research a summer academy for gifted students and the feasibility of GAM sponsoring the Future Problem Solving competition in Missouri. State Conference keynote is Dr. Irving Sato.

1983

District directors, committees and task forces are organized. First spring conferences are held in districts around the state. The Ferman Memorial Fund for the Gifted is established. GAM State Conference is held in Jefferson City with speakers including Nancy Johnson, Dr. James Webb and Dr. June Maker. Dede Smith is re-elected as President.

1984

GAM sponsors first Missouri Future Problem Solving Bowl in Jefferson City. Governor Chris Bond signs funding bill authorizing funds for the Missouri Scholars Academy. The first New Teachers of Gifted workshop is held. A Task Force is created for Graduate Education/Certification. NAGC Annual Convention is held in St. Louis. Dede Smith is re-elected as president.

1985

Parent resources are published – *Meeting the Needs of Gifted at Home and School* and *Young Children with Advanced Abilities*. The first Missouri Scholars Academy is held at MU. The State Conference is held at Tan-Tar-A with speakers including Dr. Roger Taylor, Dr. James Kern, and Nancy Johnson. Susan Cole is elected as president.

1986

Video resource is produced – “*Don't Throw Away a Miracle*” and “*I Think I Have One*”. Student affiliate chapter of GAM is organized with Brian Clark as president. Scholarship fund for gifted students to attend summer programs is established. State Conference is held at Tan-Tar-A with speakers including Dr. Barbara Kerr, Dr. Robert Sawyer, and Dr. Walter Barbe. Dr. Ella Jones is elected as president.

1987

GAM publishes *The Counselor and Gifted/Talented Students*, and *The Librarian and Gifted/Talented Students*, and *The Handbook for New Teachers of the Gifted*. State Conference is held at Tan-Tar-A with speakers including Dr. George Betts, Patricia Bruce Mitchell, and Dr. Felice Kaufmann. GAM establishes an Early Childhood Education task force. Dr. Ella Jones re-elected as president.

# 1988

The first Gifted Education Week in Missouri is proclaimed by Secretary of State Roy Blunt. Legislation will provide 75% state funding for gifted programs instead of 50% (lobbied for by GAM). The State Conference is held at Tan-Tar-A with speakers including Dr. Robert Sternberg, Roseanne Bentley and Dr. Joyce Van Tassel-Baska. Dr. Carolyn Cooper is elected as president.

# 1989

GAM publishes *Country Connections*, created by the task force on Rural, Non-Public and Alternative programs. GAM members are appointed to a state committee reviewing certification standards for teachers of the gifted. Task forces on Secondary Education and DESE Guidelines Review are created. The State Conference is held at Tan-Tar-A with keynote speaker Dr. James Delisle. Dr. Carolyn Cooper is re-elected as president.

# 1990

State Board of Education adopts certification standards for teachers of the gifted. Gifted Education Week proclaimed by Governor John Ashcroft in a ceremony at the capitol attended by more than 1,000 gifted students, teachers and parents. The State Conference is held at Tan-Tar-A with speakers including Dr. Sylvia Rimm, Steven Caney, Dr. K. Medford Moreland and Joy Wayman. GAM publishes *Supporting the Gifted Reader*. Parent Network and Corporate Liaison committees are authorized. Sara Lampe is elected as president.

# 1991

GAM successfully lobbies to leave funding for gifted education in Foundation Formula. (This means that specific money is earmarked for gifted.) A video lending library is established. DESE guidelines for gifted programs modified as recommended by GAM. Secondary Programs Task Force hosts workshop. NAGC Convention to be held in KC with assistance from GAM members on local planning committee. Mary Kay Farrow is elected as president.

# 1992

Dede Smith Memorial Scholarship Fund is established. The State Conference is held at Tan-Tar-A with speakers including Dr. Susan Baum, Dr. Barbara Lewis, and Dr. Susanne Richert. GAM welcomes David Welch as Missouri's new State Director of Gifted. Mary Kay Farrow is re-elected as president.

# 1993

The State Conference is held at Tan-Tar-A with speakers including George Obermeier and Nancy Johnson. There is a "family special" the first day of the conference. Graduate credit is offered for conference attendees. Books to publish and Math task force started. Mary Kay Farrow is re-elected as president.

# 1994

The State Conference is held at Tan-Tar-A with speakers including Susan Winebrenner, Dr. Carol Tomlinson, Larry Shles, Carolyn Lesser, and Nancy Johnson. GAMbit sponsors writing contest for students. GAM also has Logo contest. Peggy Higginbottom is elected as president.

# 1995

A mandatory certification endorsement becomes effective September 1, 1995. Middle School and Creativity Task Forces appointed. GAM sponsors writing contest for students. The State Conference is held at Tan-Tar-A with speakers including Dr. Thomas Hoerr, Dr. Nicholas Colangelo, Dr. Sally Walker and Dr. Robert Hayduk. Peggy Higginbottom is re-elected as president.

# 1996

The State Conference is held at Tan-Tar-A with speakers including Dr. Jim Delisle, Dr. David Lazear, and Dr. Barbara Clark. GAM has 1300 members! Students compete in “Voyage of the Mind” boat contest sponsored by GAM. The Fine Arts Academy is established. Nancy Pate is elected as president.

# 1997

State Conference is held at Tan-Tar-A with speakers including Dr. Barbara Clark, Judy Galbraith, Sharon Lind, Mary Kay Shandley and Dr. Felice Kaufmann. Fine Arts Academy students provide entertainment for the conference. GAM begins planning to create a webpage. Nancy Pate is re-elected as president.

# 1998

GAM adds scholarships to train new teachers. State Conference is held at Tan-Tar-A with speakers including Mark Sharenbroich and Dr. James Alvino. Donna Pfautsch is elected as president. Randy Scherr becomes GAM’s legislative consultant.

# 1999

GAM website is established. There is an extensive review of the GAM bylaws. GAM sponsors a guest artist at the Missouri Fine Arts Academy. GAM organizes its first formal speakers’ bureau. Parent category added to membership. The State Conference is held at Tan-Tar-A with speakers including Dr. Sandra Kaplan and Carolyn Coil. The Delma Johnson Memorial Scholarship is established. A Teacher Education Committee is created. A research component to the GAM library Committee is initiated. Donna Pfautsch is re-elected as president. Kyna Iman becomes GAM’s legislative consultant.

# 2000

GAM hires an Executive Secretary. The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual State Conference is held at Tan-Tar-A with speakers including Dr. Barbara Kerr, Dr. Richard Olenchak and Jon Pearson. Nancy Gerardy is elected as president. It is decided the president will serve a two year term.

# 2001

The Norine Kerber Memorial Scholarship is established. This year has the highest number of Missouri districts offering a state approved gifted program– 333 districts. The State Conference is held at Tan-Tar-A with speakers including Dr. Sally Reis, Carolyn Callahan, and Nathan Levy. Nancy Gerardy serves her second year as president.

# 2002

Legislative Advocacy is increased. The State Conference is held at Tan-Tar-A with speakers including Nancy Johnson and Carol Ann Tomlinson. Susan Berti is elected president.

# 2003

The State Conference is held at Tan-Tar-A with speakers including Jeanne Purcell and Deborah Burns. Susan Berti serves her second year as president.

# 2004

The State Conference is held at Tan-Tar-A with speakers including Nathan Levy, Dr. Jann Leppien, and Dr. Linda Smith. Sally Holt is elected as president. State aid is capped at \$24,870,104 which is 65% of reimbursement.

# 2005

The State Conference is held at Tan-Tar-A with speakers including Dr. Julia Link Roberts, Jan Cloninger, Nathan Levy, and Sue Winter. The Program Evaluation Task Force is formed. Sally Holt serves her second year as president.

# 2006

The State Conference is held at Tan-Tar-A. Gifted funding is folded into the foundation formula and no longer calculated as a percentage of reimbursement. A temporary penalty is included to deter districts from decreasing gifted program enrollment. Students and teachers in Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate classes are included in DESE gifted data. Sue Winter is elected as president.

# 2007

The State Conference is held at Tan-Tar-A. Sue Winter serves her second year as president. She gives testimony before the Senate Appropriations Committee as GAM works with Kyna Iman to restore the line item for gifted funding. On July 11, Kyna Iman, David Welch and Sue Winter meet with Commissioner Kent King in Jefferson City regarding funding for gifted programs.

# 2008

The State Conference is held at Tan-Tar-A. The Higher Education Act is signed into law at the federal level. This act requires pre-service teachers to have training in teaching gifted students. This year, for the first time, GAM awards the Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award. Ellen Wright is elected as president.

# 2009

The National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) conference held in St. Louis, Missouri. 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students from Boonville High School create a grid portrait of Howard Gardner – the keynote speaker for the conference. Ellen Wright serves her second year as president.

# 2010

The State Conference is moved to a new location – the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia. GAM is actively involved in writing a segment of the new Missouri RTI Guidance Document that explains how gifted education relates to Response to Intervention. Becky Smith is elected as president.

# 2011

The State Conference is held at the Holiday Inn Expo Center in Columbia, Missouri. In 2011 we see the highest number of teachers working in gifted programs (920). This includes AP and IB classes. Becky Smith serves her second year as president.

# 2012

The State Conference is held at the Holiday Inn Expo Center in Columbia, Missouri. Senate Bill 599 requires districts to report on their annual report card whether the school district has a state approved gifted education program and the percentage and number of students currently being served in the program. Patty Cookson is elected as president.

# 2013

GAM moves their State Conference to a university. The State Conference is held at Drury University in Springfield, Missouri. State Statute 161.249 establishes the Advisory Council on the Education of Gifted and Talented Children. The Council's first report is issued on March 4, 2015. Patty Cookson serves her second year as president.

**2014** The State Conference is held at Drury University in Springfield, Missouri. Missouri sees the highest number of students served in programs according to data collected by DESE – 40,984 students! Lea Trimble retires from editing the GAMbit and is given a Lifetime Membership! Dr. Robin Lady is elected as president.

**2015** The State Conference is held at the University of Missouri in Columbia. Dr. Bertie Kingore is the conference keynote speaker. The Advisory Council for Gifted and Talented Children creates ten recommendations for action to DESE. Dr. Robin Lady serves her second year as president.

**2016** GAM celebrates 35 years! The State Conference is held at the University of Missouri in Columbia. Dr. Richard Courtright is the keynote speaker. Dr. Lenae Lazzelle is elected as president. Senate Bill 638 modifies provisions related to gifted education.

**2017** Beginning in 2017-2018, districts will incur a reduction in funding if they experience a decrease in gifted program enrollment by more than 20% based on the previous year's enrollment. Students in AP and IB classes will no longer be counted as gifted in DESE core data. Changes in gifted certification requirements become effective August 1, 2017.



#mogtchat

Twitter has a chat just for you - pertaining to Gifted Students/Gifted Education.

**Thursdays 8pm CST**

Log onto Twitter and search for the hashtag #mogtchat  
Join in by introducing yourself and chatting with those online

**Respond to question posted and  
join in the conversation!**

# **GIFTED ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI**

## **2017 State Advocacy Agenda**

The Gifted Association of Missouri requests your advocacy on the following issues:

### **FUNDING FOR GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

**Support legislation to increase funding for gifted education programs.**

- 1) Support legislation that modifies the elementary and secondary education funding formula by adding an additional weight for gifted education. "Gifted Education Pupil Count" is defined as the number of students who qualify as "gifted" under section 162.675 and who are enrolled and have participated in a school district's state approved gifted education program by June first for the immediately preceding academic year.
- 2) Support legislation that mandates every school in Missouri provide state approved gifted education programs for students identified as "gifted" under section 162.675 and that all program services are provided by teachers with a valid certification in gifted education.
- 3) Support legislation that requires all Missouri school districts to have a policy allowing acceleration for students demonstrating advanced performance or potential for advanced performance and the social/emotional readiness for such acceleration. The policy should include subject acceleration and whole grade acceleration, among other opportunities.

### **MISSOURI SCHOLARS ACADEMY & MISSOURI FINE ARTS ACADEMY**

**Support state funding for the Missouri Scholars Academy and Missouri Fine Arts Academy for June, 2018. The State Legislature & Governor appropriated \$750,000 for the June, 2017 academies.**

- The Scholars Academy is a three-week residential program at MU for 330 high school juniors who are academically gifted;
- The Fine Arts Academy is a three-week residential program at MSU for 150 rising high school juniors and seniors who are gifted in the arts.

### **MISSOURI SCHOOL FOUNDATION FORMULA FUNDING**

Support increased funding for the Missouri School Foundation Formula. Support \$3.7 billion appropriation in House Bill 2 for the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education.

### **OTHER GIFTED FACTS & FIGURES**

- \$24,870,104 was appropriated for gifted education in FY2006. There were 295 school districts with state approved gifted programs. In FY2007, this amount was rolled into the new foundation formula. Without this line item providing earmarked funding for state approved gifted programs, those funds can be spent on other programs, and there are now only 211 school districts offering state approved gifted programs.

If you have questions, please contact GAM's Governmental Consultant, Kyna Iman, at [kynaiman@earthlink.net](mailto:kynaiman@earthlink.net)

**2017 GAM DAY AT THE CAPITOL IS  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, AT 10:45 AM**

# Awards and Scholarships Luncheon



## **Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award: Joshua Donaldson**

The Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award is awarded to one student each year from Missouri. Recipients are given a \$250 scholarship along with a Certificate of Excellence by the Gifted Association of Missouri (GAM). Students selected for the award are between grades three and six and have distinguished themselves in academic achievement, leadership, and/or the arts.

This year's recipient coordinated and directed a reading fundraiser and expanded the Future Problem Solving Program in his community. This fundraiser raised \$1600 for over 200 books for his school library. He is also very involved with Scouts and theater. He believes all of his extracurricular activities help shape who he is now and who he will be in the future. Just from reading his essay and his letter of recommendation, we will see great things from this young man.

Deborah Ballin, his teacher says, "It takes a special student with an insatiable love of learning to meet the demands of a problem solving competition. Having that drive and recognizing the qualities in your friends is awe inspiring." She also states, "What Josh has done by himself and with his friends is only a small part of why I am nominating him for the Nicholas Green Award. I feel that he deserves this recognition because of his character and personality." This year's recipient of the Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award is Joshua Donaldson.



## **Delma Johnson Outstanding Educator Award: Heather Tomicich**

This year's Delma Johnson Outstanding Educator Award recipient is Heather Tomicich. She has worked at different capacities in GAM. She is devoted to her students, and goes above and beyond what is expected in the classroom for her students. Riley Lawson, a former student writes: "Mrs. Tomicich exceeded all expectations set of her in the years I had her as a gifted education teacher. She constantly ensured each student in her classroom was both learning new information, and pushing all of us to lengths, we never

would have deemed possible. She consistently went to the Gifted Conference to make sure she was at the top her game. She would always be sure to take advantage of opportunities to excite the rising middle schoolers. She helped organize events to prepare these rising middle schoolers, which included a gifted education fair with various projects designed and to excite the mind to show these soon to be students of hers what to expect."



## **DeDe Smith Friend of Gifted:**

### **Dr. Tim Lewis**

There are so many people that help gifted kids without ever expecting anything in return. The recipient of this year’s DeDe Smith Friend of Gifted has been in education for the past 30+ years and is also a parent of a gifted child who has benefited from gifted services. He has served as the chair of the Special Education Department and has been instrumental in establishing a Master’s in Education with a focus in Gifted

Education Programing at MU. His interest and position have been responsible for MU continued opportunities offered for literally hundreds of Missouri gifted teachers to complete the academic coursework required by DESE for gifted certification. We, as GAM also owe him thanks for the use of MU’s facility. The recipient of this year’s DeDe Smith Friend of Gifted Award is Dr. Tim Lewis.

## **The Bob Roach Scholarship for New Teachers: Rachael Hitch**



This year’s Bob Roach Scholarship for New Teachers is awarded to Rachael Hitch. This year the teacher for the scholarship was nominated because “she took what she learned at the New Teachers Workshop and applied it to her program, as well as agreeing to take on an extra work load in her new job,” and that this scholarship would, “help Rachael with supplies for this extra teaching assignment, which was given to her at the start of the year after much of the needed curriculum supplies had already been ordered, and money spent.” The donation for this scholarship is provided by Drury University.



## **When you have good news, do you tweet about it?**

Start sharing your good news about gifted via Twitter! The GAMbit editor is on Twitter as @IndepIMPACT. The Gifted Association of Missouri’s Digital Director is @sethjaegerMPA. How about sharing good news with our President – Dr. Lenae Lazzelle @llazzelle. Did you know that GAM has a Twitter handle? Find us at @GAMgifted

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# “Show Up”

## A Speech for the Educators Recognized at Teacher Appreciation Day Missouri Scholars Academy 2016

Jennifer Fisher, Ph.D.

Welcome to the 2016 Missouri Scholars Academy Teacher Appreciation Day. We are so glad that you drug yourselves here from around the state in sweltering heat, on your precious (bordering on sacred) time off, put on some uncomfortable polyester blend dress clothes that you were hoping to keep at the back of your closet until at least September, and showed up for our scholars. Teachers: You. Are. Amazing.

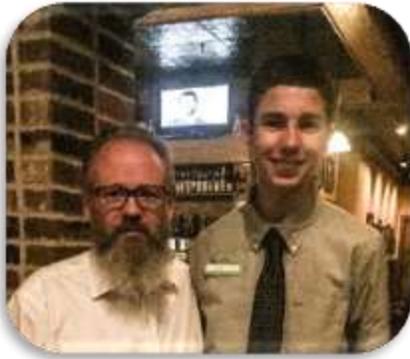
In my real life outside of this nerd camp, I am a 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher in the cultural Mecca known as Potosi, Missouri. Like my parents before me, I teach at Potosi R-3, and I love my students dearly. But throughout my time teaching English, art, and gifted education, I’ve been blessed with a handful of students who I like to call “weasels.” You know who I’m talking about—the ones who hot glue their shoes to the floor in your art room when you turn your back for ten seconds. The ones who write “IDK” on their ELA MAP test short responses and make you want to bash your head into a wall repeatedly. The ones who try to steal a puffin from the zoo on the senior trip. (That actually happened to my dad.) Seasoned teachers can spot a weasel within seconds of entering a classroom—sometimes their reputations precede them. Some of my weasels have ended up being my most cherished students, and I certainly have a rapidly graying head full of hair and a special place in my heart for them. But that’s not why we’re here today.

Today we’re here to show up and celebrate the kids who remind us on a consistent basis *exactly* why we went into this beautiful, endlessly frustrating, over-regulated, under-funded, hilarious, and endlessly rewarding career. These are the kids who show up. These are the kids who show up when you ask for volunteers to help you do grunt work the week before the spring musical’s first performance. These are the kids who show up when you invite a guest speaker to the school and you’re trying to make a good impression. These are the kids who show up long after something has stopped being fun and has started getting difficult. These are the kids who show us why we teach. These scholars show up.

And while we are proud of them, and we celebrate them today, we are mainly here to show up for you—our teachers. You are the ones who show up for us. You are the ones who show up to watch kids play ball even though you’re tired and need to go grocery shopping. You are the ones who show up to funeral homes when grandmas and grandpas are lost and kids are experiencing that deep pain for the first time. You are the ones who show up with Pop Tarts to make sure everyone in first hour got to eat breakfast. You are the ones who show up.

But not only do you show up for your kids’ hearts and stomachs, you show up for their minds. You are here today because you have shown up for a kid with high abilities that desperately seeks challenge. You show up to class with lessons you spent hours preparing in order to make sure your brightest stars got their money’s worth out of their education. You show up to school board meetings and defend the educational needs of gifted kids who deserve, just as much as every other kid, to have their learning needs met. You show up to vote for legislators who value funding for gifted education and things like the Missouri Scholars Academy and the Missouri Fine Arts Academy. You. Show. Up.

You showed up today by driving to Columbia, giving up your day, and making sure your scholar knows how much you appreciate him or her. Other teachers, though they couldn’t make it today, show up for their scholars every single day back home. You are the teachers who show up ready to teach, challenge, love, and give wholly of yourselves. You show up for your kids. And today, it is our honor, our pleasure, to recognize that and show up for you. Thank you for all you do for bright young kids in the state of Missouri, and thank you for always, always, always showing up.



# Andrew Bergantz

## MSA Closing Ceremony Speech ~ July 2, 2016

I am humbled and honored to speak on behalf of you – and *TO* you – at the close of the 2016 Missouri Scholars Academy. This thing called MSA... just Three... Short... Weeks... Isn't it amazing how much can change – how much *WE* can change – in just three weeks! I never would have believe it when my mom and dad dropped me off in the Mark Twain parking lot 20 days ago. If you would have told me that I would never look at the world the

same – or at myself the same, for that matter – I could have said you're crazy. The same kind of reaction when people were first told that humans could live on Mars.

“No way! Impossible!” But, apparently this crazy idea of traveling to the red planet – of humans actually inhabiting Mars – is a real thing...according to NASA, anyway. They say we'll be sending people to visit an asteroid in nine years, and to live on Mars sometime in the 2030's. And not just living there, but building there – building a colony. Building a community.

Before MSA, I was introverted, socially awkward, and fairly isolated from the crazy rhythm of high school. Truth is, I not only didn't have many friends...I only had *ONE* friend. Maybe it had something to do with being so smart, or feeling so out-of-place, or being so terrified of failing. Terrified of reaching out and being rejected.

Walking into Mark Twain three weeks ago, feeling displaced among 324 strangers – who may or may not accept me – was a LOT of change. Before long, I'm standing in sweaty dress clothes, shoulder-to-shoulder with those strangers and wondering “What the heck have I gotten myself into?!?” A few hours later, they made us run through a human tunnel and forced us to engage in 90 minutes of loud, strange, and chaotic contact. Yeah, actual physical contact! And no, that's not the kind you get on your cell phone. We were all out of our comfort zones, and it was still strange...but we started feeling less like strangers.

Teachers and advisers provided the opportunity, showing us how to do it, and we did it – skipping out of our comfort zones and promenading into new territory. There we were, complete strangers just a few days before, fueling up for our trip to Mars. And WOW! What a trip it's been!!

Never a dull moment. No seriously – NEVER a dull moment...from fascinating majors and minors, to literally hundreds of afternoon activities and evening programs from which to choose. Such as dissecting sheep brains, playing shogi (Japanese chess), learning about autism, practicing Ohana, hearing about how LIGO pushes the limits of quantum measurement to detect gravitational waves, and seeing how the largest prime number was discovered...which, by the way, is  $2^{74,207,281}-1$ , a number with 22,338,618 decimal digits...in case you were wondering. Oh, and who could forget the Comedy Sports, right? “What does the world's worst pirate say?” (S-matey!)

There was even a program that featured a woman who is a finalist for a one-way ticket to Mars. Fascinating! You know, when we actually *do* send people to Mars, we have a very small window of opportunity. It can only happen every two years because of the way the planets line up, so any minor setback can delay the whole endeavor 730 days. They have to *EXPECT* failure. If they *PLAN* for failure, it won't be so surprising when it happens. And when it does, the whole team will have to work together to change direction. But that new direction would never be possible without first failing.

This is why I added “FAIL” to my dream/goal-setting list in PSD-Personal & Social Dynamics. If I'm not expecting to fail...if *WE'RE* not expecting to fail, then when we do, it's going to be a heck of a lot harder getting back up.

I don't know about all of you, but PSD was a challenge for me. I've never shared really deep stuff. Not with others – not with myself. I guess that was the point, huh?

The promise of sharing with so many new people – learning how to interact with them – It was definitely worth the investment! It was so worth the risk! When you risk, the hope is for a strong return on your investment. In PSD terms, I became a billionaire!

So, how *about* that positive bombardment?!? Receiving compliments – not just receiving but being literally bombarded with compliments – was amazing. I don't know about you, but that experience let me know that I'm really not that bad of a person... That I've influenced people... And that I won't be forgotten.

Sidebar to parents: Yes, although we are all academically gifted, we still struggle with our self-esteem, wonder whether we matter to anyone, and fear that we'll be forgotten. Just saying.

Humans may very well inhabit Mars, but chances are even if they do, they're not coming back. Not in our lifetime, anyway. But that's not the case for us. Although we embarked on an equally challenging journey three weeks ago, we *CAN* come back. I know that many of you don't *WANT* to go back—you want to stay here another week... or month... or forever. But that's where community *really* comes in, where the magic really happens: back home.

You see, MSA isn't just about three weeks of intellectual stimulation, global discovery, and personal enlightenment. That's just the means to an end. The end – which really is more like a new beginning – is taking this home and spreading it out. Taking this love – yeah, I said love – there's no better word to describe it – taking this love back home with you today... and tomorrow... and next week... and next school year... and forever.

We've changed. And it's our privilege and responsibility to now change others. We came here smarter. We leave here wiser.

Some say it can't be done. That we will fail. That we are wasting our time. That the promise of taking MSA home – of inspiring intellectual stimulation, global discovery and personal enlightenment – isn't worth our investment. That it isn't worth us taking the risk.

But it *IS* worth it. It *IS* possible. And MSA *WILL* influence us forever.

*Save the Date!*

## **GAM Annual Conference on Gifted Friday and Saturday**



October 20 – 21, 2017

October 19 – 20, 2018

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University of Missouri

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

### For more information, contact:

Nancy Gerarly  
Gifted Education Program Coordinator  
Special Education Department  
GerarlyN@missouri.edu  
573-268-7766

#### SPRING SEMESTER 2017

- Research with Exceptional Children (SPC\_ED 8350)
- Assessment and Evaluation in Gifted Education (SPC\_ED 8400)
- Differentiating Instruction: Reaching Gifted, Typical and Struggling Learners (SPC\_ED 8406)
- Practicum: Gifted Education (SPC\_ED 8948)

#### SUMMER SEMESTER 2017

- Research with Exceptional Children (SPC\_ED 8350)
- Nature and Needs of Gifted and Talented Students (SPC\_ED 8380)
- Curriculum Methods for Gifted and Talented Students (SPC\_ED 8391)
- Practicum: Gifted Education (SPC\_ED 8948)

#### FALL SEMESTER 2017

- Nature and Needs of Gifted and Talented Students (SPC\_ED 8380)
- Curriculum Methods for Gifted and Talented Students (SPC\_ED 8391)
- Assessment and Evaluation in Gifted Education (SPC\_ED 8400)
- Differentiating Instruction: Reaching Gifted, Typical and Struggling Learners (SPC\_ED 8406)
- Practicum: Gifted Education (SPC\_ED 8948)

Visit: [online.missouri.edu/GAMbitF16](http://online.missouri.edu/GAMbitF16)

# New Teacher Workshop 2016

*"If you're not challenging kids, you're cheating kids." -- Missouri Representative Chrissy Sommer*

Of all of the opportunities GAM provides, none may be more exciting than the annual New Teacher Workshop. Held this year at Lindenwood University, New Teacher Workshop is open to teachers and administrators who are new to gifted education.

This year's workshop covered a range of topics from a variety of presenters. Heather Tomicich, the organizer of the workshop and a teacher in Francis Howell School District, discussed competition opportunities for students. GAM President Dr. Robin Lady of Rockwood School District shared her tips for surviving that first year in the gifted classroom, while David Welch of DESE delivered the State of Gifted update. Pat Curry, retired from Francis Howell School District and now an independent consultant and test examiner, helped teachers navigate the ins and outs of identification. Curriculum was provided by several teachers -- Tad Droste of the Kennard Classical Junior Academy, Donna Marx of Fort Zumwalt School District, Ashli Eaves of Camdenton School District, and Meredith Burstin of Springfield Public Schools. STEAM was a topic of interest, and Lezlie Waltz of Raymore-Peculiar discussed ways to use Twitter chats and other tech tools to build professional learning networks. Vicki Adams of the Metamoic Math Center challenged teachers to consider "The Places You'll Go" with gifted education. Emily Kircher-Morris of Unlimited Potential Counseling and Education Center delved into the social and emotional needs of gifted students. Attendees participated in creativity activities that they could take back to their classrooms -- the highlight of which was a session of BreakoutEDU with Lindenwood's Angie Wittmus.

Members of the Gifted Advisory Council and the GAM board joined attendees for a networking lunch, and Missouri Representative Chrissy Sommer took time from her busy schedule to offer a few remarks on the importance of gifted education. As she noted, "If you're not challenging kids, you're cheating kids." What better way to welcome new gifted teachers and administrators than to remind them of why gifted education matters?

Special thanks to Mary Gismegian and Lindenwood University for being such kind hosts and for supporting New Teacher Workshop!



BreakoutEDU with Angie Wittmus required outside of the box thinking -- literally!

What's in the bag?  
It's a STEAM mystery!





The Drury Center for Gifted Education is the only true college center for gifted education in the state of Missouri. The Center provides programs for gifted children, their families and teachers.

The teacher education program offers online coursework for graduate credit toward a Master in Education with emphasis in gifted education and/or Missouri gifted education certificate.

#### DRURY UNIVERSITY COURSE OFFERINGS

##### SUMMER

**EDUC 676** A Survey of Gifted and Talented Education

**EDUC 678** Administration and Supervision of Gifted and Talented Programs

**EDUC 686** Practicum in Working with Gifted Students

##### FALL

**EDUC 676** A Survey of Gifted and Talented Education

**EDUC 677** Curriculum and Differentiated Instruction for the Gifted

##### SPRING

**EDUC 679** Counseling and Guidance of the Gifted

All courses are three hours of graduate credit (unless noted), which meets requirements for gifted certification.

**Contact:** Dr. Laurle Edmondson, Dean School of Education & Child Development (417) 873-7271 - ledmondson@drury.edu

#### DRURY SUMMER CAMPS 2016

July 11-22

**Summer Pals** — grades pk-1st 8:15-11:15

**Summer Quest** — grades 2nd-5th 8:30-11:30

July 10-21 — Drury University

**Summerscape** — grades 6th-8th

**Drury Leadership Academy** — grades 9th-12th

Financial need scholarships available upon request.

**Contact:** Mary Pott Hoff, Director Center for Gifted Education mpotthof@drury.edu www.drury.edu/giftededucation

MAKE THE CONNECTION. PASS IT ON.

# To Be or Not To Be (a GAM Member)...

*It's really not a question at all! Here's why your GAM membership matters.*

By Meredith Burstin, Vice-President of Membership



I've had the pleasure of attending many district conferences and events on behalf of GAM. I truly enjoy meeting parents, teachers, and students across the state; I am so fortunate to see all of the amazing things happening in Missouri! While at these events I spend time encouraging people to join GAM. Though the locations and people are different, the responses I hear often are not:

"I'd like to join GAM, but I'm a member of too many other organizations."

"Oh, sorry! I left my checkbook at home. I'll mail it in later."

"Is it really worthwhile to join?"

These are all legitimate concerns and questions. So, let's begin!

## **1. "I'd like to join GAM, but I'm a member of too many other organizations."**

There are certainly many worthy educational organizations in Missouri. However, GAM is the *only* organization in our state dedicated to advocating for gifted programs, students, teachers, and parents. Our district and state conferences provide opportunities for educators and parents to connect and share. We offer professional development for teachers and administrators who are new to gifted education. Our legislative consultant, Kyna Iman, is essential to our success as an advocacy group. Without members, all of that would come to an end and gifted programming would become extremely vulnerable; GAM is the only organization committed to keeping that from happening.

## **2. "Oh, sorry! I left my checkbook at home. I'll mail it in later."**

You are welcome to mail in your membership form and dues to our P.O. Box! For your convenience, however, you can also join or renew your membership at our website at [www.mogam.org](http://www.mogam.org); we also offer an online payment option. It only takes a few minutes, and you can cross an item off of your to-do list! You can also use our website to network with your district director, who will be a valuable resource in connecting you to resources and other educators or parents in your area.

## **3. "Is it really worthwhile to join?"**

Yes -- without a doubt, absolutely, yes. Yes, it is absolutely worthwhile to join GAM. Over the past few years our voices have been heard loud and clear by our legislators. Establishing the Gifted Advisory Council, ensuring that we have a full-time director of gifted at DESE, and more -- none of this would have been possible without GAM's advocacy efforts. There is strength in numbers, and a strong membership communicates our collective commitment to gifted education in Missouri.

The decision to be or not to be a member is an easy one. Anyone who has a passion for gifted education, wants to know more about gifted education, or has a someone who is gifted in the family (even if it's you!) can find value in joining GAM -- and we will do all we can to provide an amazing return on that investment.

*Meredith Burstin is a resource teacher for Phelps Center for Gifted Education in Springfield, Missouri. A former recipient of GAM's Bob Roach New Teacher Scholarship, she serves as the Membership Vice-President for GAM. She will also be presenting at this year's National Association of Gifted Children's conference.*



## We are excited to offer a new *Lifetime Membership* option!

We are only as strong as our membership, and we want to recognize members who wish to show continued commitment to supporting gifted education in Missouri.

For a **one-time payment** of \$500 lifetime you will become a permanent member of GAM – no yearly renewal forms or additional payments required! All we ask is that you respond to a brief yearly request from our Membership Vice-President to keep our contact records updated; we want to ensure that you are receiving all information and member benefits!

Questions? Ready to join GAM for life? Contact Meredith Burstin at [mburs10@hotmail.com](mailto:mburs10@hotmail.com) to know more or to get started!

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# Apply for GAM Scholarships and Awards

## **The Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Scholarship**

The Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award is awarded to one Missouri student each year. Recipients are given a \$250 scholarship along with a Certificate of Excellence by the Gifted Association of Missouri (GAM). Students selected for the award are between grades 3 and 6 and have distinguished themselves in academic achievement, leadership, and/or the arts. Nominations, application, and parental release form for the Missouri NGDS Award must be postmarked by **June 1**.



## **The Bob Roach Scholarship for New Teachers** **Sponsored by Drury University**

In 1999, GAM created the New Teacher Scholarship to promote the certification of teachers in the field of gifted education. In 2007, the award was renamed the Bob Roach Scholarship for New Teachers in honor of the continuous dedication of gifted educator, Bob Roach. In 2010, the gifted community lost this life-long educator and friend. GAM honors Bob's passion for Gifted Education with a \$250 scholarship awarded annually at the Gifted Association of Missouri Conference. To apply, applicants must be in the process of obtaining certification in gifted education and in their first or second year of teaching gifted. **Submit by September 1**.



## **The DeDe Smith Friend of Gifted Award**

Dede, one of GAM's founders, served as GAM president and GAMbit editor. Under her insightful guidance, the Missouri Scholars Academy was established. Dede initiated and served as Director of Drury's Center for Gifted Education until her untimely death in 1991. The Dede Smith Friend of Gifted Award is awarded by nomination. GAM invites nominations of individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the field of gifted education in Missouri. An individual who is eligible to be a recipient of this award will belong to one of the following categories: legislator or other elected official, administrator, counselor, regular classroom teacher, media person, business person or mentor. **Submit by September 1**.



## **The Delma Johnson Outstanding Educator of Gifted Award**

The Delma Johnson Outstanding Educator of Gifted Award is for educators who have made outstanding contributions to the field of gifted education in Missouri. GAM invites eligible nominees who belong to one of the following categories to apply: teacher of gifted, coordinator of gifted programming, or college professor directly involved with gifted students or teachers of gifted. **Submit by September 1**.



### The Norine Kerber Parent of Gifted Award

The Norine Kerber Parent of Gifted Award recognizes parents who have made outstanding contributions to the field of gifted education in Missouri. GAM invites nominees who belong to one of the following categories to apply: parent, step-parent, or guardian of a gifted child in the state of Missouri. Submit by September 1.

**The student award must be submitted or postmarked by June 1, 2016.**  
**The adult awards must be submitted or postmarked by September 1, 2016.**

### Submit nominations to:

Gifted Association of Missouri Executive Secretary – Awards & Scholarships  
P.O. Box 3252, Springfield, MO 65808

Please see the GAM website for directions on how to nominate and submit information.  
We look forward to recognizing those who have worked hard for GAM.

.....

“The essence of good government is citizen involvement.”

# Vote November 8!

## Elections Have Consequences Vote Wisely...

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and candidates and ballot initiatives  
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**Searching for ways to support your academically talented students in reaching their full potential? Duke TIP is here to help.**

The Duke University Talent Identification Program (Duke TIP) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving academically talented youth worldwide. TIP will work with you to identify, recognize, nurture, and challenge your gifted students.

We offer gifted students in grades 4-12 a number of special opportunities:

- Talent searches to support gifted youth with above-level testing and formal recognition of ability.
- Dynamic residential educational programs that take place on the Duke University campus and other campuses throughout the U.S. and abroad.
- Independent and distance learning opportunities that provide unique, above-level curriculum at home or on the go.
- Resources, publications, and advisory services focused on guiding gifted students and their parents.



Our services are provided at no cost to schools. Financial aid is available to qualifying students.

Visit [www.tip.duke.edu](http://www.tip.duke.edu) to learn more or contact Duke TIP at (919) 668-9100.



## MARYVILLE ANNOUNCES GIFTED EDUCATION COURSES AND PROGRAMS FOR GIFTED STUDENTS

### FOR STUDENTS

**The Maryville Science and Robotics Program** is an engaging opportunity for students ages 4-15 who are interested in science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) fields. Monthly weekend programs are offered in addition to the summer program, offered annually over two weeks in July. [Learn more at maryville.edu/robot](http://maryville.edu/robot)

**The Maryville Young Scholars Program** identifies students from groups underrepresented in gifted programs and serves them through summer academies, after-school programs, parent workshops, and teacher professional development. [Learn more at maryville.edu/youngscholars](http://maryville.edu/youngscholars)

**The Children using Robotics for Engineering, Science, Technology and Math (CREST-M) Program** develops math curriculum to engage students from diverse backgrounds in STEM careers through robotics and compelling story-lines.

### FOR TEACHERS

Maryville offers state-approved gifted certification courses and a comprehensive master of arts with a concentration in gifted education. These small, face-to-face classes with leading experts are for teachers that enjoy developing their own talents as well as their students'. [Learn more at maryville.edu/gifted](http://maryville.edu/gifted)

**Earn a certificate in STEM Education** (9-credit hours) in our highly innovative, hands-on, and differentiated program taught by expert practitioners during an intensive June program on our main campus. Courses include makerspace, robotics, architecture, and app development. [Learn more at maryville.edu/stem](http://maryville.edu/stem)

For information on graduate admissions, contact: Holly Stanwich at 314.529.9542 or [hstanwich@maryville.edu](mailto:hstanwich@maryville.edu).

### PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

**Steve Coxon, Ph.D.**, is associate professor and director of programs in gifted education at Maryville University in St. Louis. A former classroom teacher, Steve conducts research on developing STEM talents and is author of numerous publications including the book *Serving Visual-Spatial Learners*. He serves as the science education columnist for *Teaching for High Potential* and book review editor for *Roeper Review*. Steve was the 2010 recipient of the Joyce VanTassel-Baska Award for Excellence in Gifted Education.



[maryville.edu](http://maryville.edu)  
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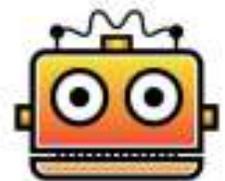


# THE MARYVILLE SCIENCE AND ROBOTICS PROGRAM

is offering two series of classes during the school year that focus on engaging STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) for students ages 5-12.

Participants will have opportunities to explore a variety of 21st century skills while participating in our five week courses. They will explore robotics, game design, circuitry, architecture, Makerspace and other STEAM topics. Classes will allow for individual choice and projects using our state of the art technologies and led by our expert faculty.

- Enroll for the fall 2016 session on October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and/or the spring 2017 session on February 4, 11, 25, March 4, 11.
- Enroll in both sessions and receive a \$50 discount. Each session will be unique.
- Participants may be dropped off, or an adult family member is welcome to attend any or all sessions with their participant for free.



MARYVILLE  
UNIVERSITY

For more information visit - [maryville.edu/robot](http://maryville.edu/robot)

“The essence of good government is citizen involvement.”

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Vote Wisely...

To learn more about where you vote,  
and candidates and ballot initiatives in your district, go to:



<https://voteroutreach.sos.mo.gov/PRD/VoterOutreach/VOsearch.aspx>

## **Requirements for Gifted Education Certification**

Beginning on **8/1/2017**, new subject area requirements for all areas of certification will go into effect. These changes were approved by the State Board of Education at its January 2014 meeting. The following list provides the specific requirements approved by the State Board for the Gifted Education K-12 certificate:

(A) General Requirements—

1. A valid Missouri permanent or professional certificate of license to teach;
2. Two (2) years of classroom teaching experience; and
3. The applicant must achieve a score equal to or in excess of the qualifying score on the required exit assessment(s) as defined in 5 CSR 20-400.310 and 5CSR 20-400.440. The official score shall be submitted to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (department).

(B) Professional Requirements—

1. Psychology and/or Education of the Exceptional Child, including the Gifted (minimum of two (2) semester hours.)

(C) Content Knowledge for Teaching—

1. A Survey of Gifted and Talented Education;
2. Programming Planning and Development: An Understanding of Administration and Supervision of Gifted Programs;
3. Screening, Assessing, and Evaluating Gifted Students;
4. Curriculum and Instruction for the Gifted;
5. Meeting the Affective Needs of Gifted Students; and
6. A minimum of one (1) graduate course in research procedures.

(D) Field and Clinical Experience (three (3) semester hours)—

1. Culminating Clinical Experience. A supervised clinical experience in which candidates acquire experience in planning for and working with gifted students in various instructional settings in both elementary and secondary schools. The clinical experience should include collaboration with other educators to support student learning.

Candidates are expected to complete coursework in each of the areas cited. It should be noted that, with the exception of the exit assessment, the requirements remain essentially the same as those currently in place. To date, no exit assessment has been approved by the State Board for the area of Gifted Education.

**ALERT! Requirements for gifted certification are changing! Please be sure to be informed! We need more GT teachers in education! If you need a few more hours to move on the pay scale, consider obtaining your gifted certification.**



*Missouri Academy is a two-year, early-college school for academically high-performing students. It is located at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Missouri. The school selects students who have completed 10<sup>th</sup> grade, thus replacing the last two years of high school. The curriculum consists of university courses taught by professors at Northwest – attending classes together with traditional university students. Students receive high school diploma and Associate of Science degree upon completion. Call 877-398-4615 or visit [www.nwmissouri.edu/MASMC](http://www.nwmissouri.edu/MASMC).*

# GAM Board of Directors

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Joe Kreuger, Diversity Task Force Chair	G	<a href="mailto:gerardyn@missouri.edu">gerardyn@missouri.edu</a>	Sunrise Beach
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Kyna Iman, Legislative Advocate	G	<a href="mailto:kynaiman@earthlink.net">kynaiman@earthlink.net</a>	Jefferson City

Have you thought of becoming more involved in GAM?



### GAM Membership Application

- I am a new member
- I am renewing my membership

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

School District \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ GAM District \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

#### Telephone Numbers:

Home (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Work (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please check appropriate one: (You can also pay for 2 yrs!)

- Parent/Guardian/Grandparent . . . \$15
- Educator/Individual . . . \$25
- Patron/Institutions . . . \$55
- Sponsor . . . \$105

#### I am a (n): (Please check all that apply)

- Teacher of Gifted Education
  - Elem.     MS     HS     Admin.
- Teacher in the Regular Classroom
  - Elem.     MS     HS     Admin.
- Parent
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Why join the Gifted Association of Missouri?

GAM is the only organization in the state that advocates for gifted programs and provides support and resources to gifted teachers, students, and parents. We work at the district and state level to lobby for funding for gifted programs, create networking opportunities for parents, and support teachers in the development and implementation of curriculum.

*We truly cannot do this with you; your membership makes a difference!*

**To join, visit**

[www.mogam.org](http://www.mogam.org)

and click on "Join GAM Today"!



Mail to: Gifted Association of Missouri  
P.O. Box 3252, Springfield, MO 65808