

President's Letter

By Meredith Wisniewski

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that it is now 2022. This is often a time of resolutions and optimism, but with the increased attention surrounding education it may feel quite different. I've spent a lot of time in the past reflecting on resolutions. To find inspiration for this letter I looked back over some of my personal writing from a few years ago, and this is what I found:

It seems like every January I make certain promises to myself about how things will be different, better, new. I'm going to stick to that new gym routine, I'll train for this new race, I'll visit those new places, I'll put myself out there and try new things; every year new resolutions emerge and I find myself struggling to keep them. I manage to follow through on some, but others tend to quietly fade away. Part of me gets excited for the new challenges, but another part of me wonders about my motivation. Am I trying to be better than I already am, or am I looking to forge an entirely new path and reinvent myself? I also get that the whole idea of new year's resolutions can seem a bit silly. If you want something badly enough, why wait until January 1?

So, this year I've decided to do things differently. I will resolve..not to resolve to do anything. Any new challenge I come up against will be what it will be. Instead of setting unrealistic expectations and being hard on myself for inevitably failing to meet them I will just take things as they come.

Seems Past Me had, in some strange way, insight into Present and Future Me. The idea of taking things as they come has become quite the mantra for educators lately. There is no way to know where this year will take us, and I'm riding the ride along with all of you. However, in trying to find some sort of balance in it all I still strongly believe in the power of our gifted community. GAM continues to provide support for everyone in the gifted community, and despite my beliefs on resolutions we do have one for you: to continue to advocate for a gifted education mandate.

This year's magic numbers are 806 and 2366. Senate Bill 806 is sponsored by Senator Denny Hoskins; House Bill 2366 is sponsored by Representative Brenda Shields. Both bills will once again include language requiring districts to provide gifted education services. While we all may have our personal feelings about New Year's resolutions, this is one I hope we can all commit to achieving.

Wishing you a safe and healthy 2022,

Meredith Wisniewski



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GAM Day at the Capitol



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Feb 23, 2022

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www.mogam.org

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DESE Gifted Education Update January 2022

Christine Nobbe
Director of Gifted Education
Christine.Nobbe@dese.mo.gov

Happy 2022! I love quotes and searched for an appropriate 2022 quote. This one by Nido Qubein seems just right: “Your present circumstances don't determine where you can go; they merely determine where you start.” I’m hoping we go far in 2022! **I am looking forward to several projects, based on the October 2021 State Board of Education and the December 2021 Gifted Advisory Council meetings.**

- Gifted Education modules for administrators on the DESE virtual learning platform
- Portrait of a Gifted Learner
- Gifted Learner Outcomes
- Metrics for student growth

Watch for more information in the next weeks!

Also in 2022, Missouri Scholars and Missouri Fine Arts Academies will be in-person! It is exciting to plan for a return of both academies. (MSA was held virtually in 2020 and 2021.) Get your nominations in ASAP, as deadlines are in February:

- <https://moscholars.missouri.edu/> (due Feb. 4)
- <https://www.missouristate.edu/MFAA/> (due Feb. 20)

The Academies are the focus of *Gifted and Talented Tuesdays* on January 11 and February 8. Learn more about G/T Tuesdays here: <https://dese.mo.gov/media/pdf/gifted-and-talented-tuesday-2022>

The Powerful Learning Conference is coming up on January 24-25. It’s not too late to register, but early bird rates end on January 10, 2022. I’m excited that we have four breakout sessions connected to gifted education AND that we will be hearing from keynote speakers Weston Kieschnick, Nancy Frey, John Hattie, and Douglas Fisher. Learn more here: <https://dese.mo.gov/quality-schools/powerful-learning-conference>

In January and February I will be engrossed in the desk audits. I sent a listserv message on January 4th with the subject “IMPORTANT message about desk audits: Please Read!” If you didn’t receive it, email me and I’ll send a copy.

Here are a few things I focused on since my October update:

- Presented at several conferences including DESE’s federal programs conference, the school counseling conference, and the state math conference.
- Presented at the State Board of Education meeting:
<https://dese.mo.gov/state-board-education/agendas-minutes/october-19-2021-sbe-agenda>
- Consulted with schools and responded to parent requests for information
- Helped organize and attended the virtual fall conference for Council of State Directors of Programs for the Gifted (CSDPG)
- Worked (virtually) with students – oh so much fun!

Please reach out if need support, have a great idea to share, or just want to talk gifted.

-Christine

2022

DRURY UNIVERSITY PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAMS

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SUMMERSCAPE

July 10-17

Grades 6, 7 & 8 classes AND Residential

DRURY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

July 10-17

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MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW.



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Please contact me with any questions

Mary Potthoff, Director

Center for Gifted Education

mpotthof@drury.edu

Registration Now Open!

Battle of the Brains

by Jennifer Blank

Battle of the Brains is a Kansas City metro area contest where each top 20 finalist team is guaranteed to win a piece of \$155,000 in grants for science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education by dreaming up an exhibit concept for Science City. One student team will see its idea come to life in a big way! The competition inspires students to think big and encourages teamwork, collaboration, and critical thinking with a real-world STEM challenge.

This year, more than 6,400 students from 240 schools in 50 school districts entered Kansas City's largest STEM competition. Since it started 10 years ago, more than 30,000 students have benefited from this immersive educational opportunity.

The grand prize-winning team will receive a \$50,000 grant, along with the opportunity to work alongside Burns & McDonnell and Science City STEM professionals to transform their winning idea into a \$1 million permanent exhibit at Science City. Over the years, students in the competition have inspired five exhibits now on display at Science City. The grand prize-winning team will be revealed at an awards ceremony at Union Station.

This year, many Kansas City- area gifted programs placed within the top 20 finalists. From the Missouri side of the state line, the following gifted programs were awarded top 20 status:

- Raytown Challenge Gifted Program, led by Jennifer Blank, Megan Finlay, and Rachel Bailey. Proposal: "Expect the Unex-Spectrum"
- Raytown Challenge Gifted Program, led by Jennifer Blank, Megan Finlay, and Rachel Bailey. Proposal: "Riveting Robotics"

- North Kansas City SAGE Gifted Program, led by Erin Nash. Proposal: "A World of Robotics"
- Platte County Delta Gifted Program, led by Amy Cordova. Proposal: "Circles of Light"
- Belton STAR Gifted Program, led by Tricia Trutzel-Betts. Proposal: "Inside the Science of Superheroes"
- Blue Springs Stretch Gifted Program at Cordill-Mason Elementary, led by Jennifer Medina. Proposal: "Earth Rocks!"
- Blue Springs Stretch Gifted Program at Moreland Ridge Middle School, led by Emily Love. Proposal: "Project Planet"
- Blue Springs Stretch Gifted Program at Delta Woods Middle School, led by Annalisa Stoner. Proposal: "Laser Lounge"



Missouri Alliance
for Arts Education



STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Serve as a Delegate to the Show-Me Arts Summit March 22, 2022 - *Join other Missouri students to develop leadership and advocacy skills in support of arts education at a training session in Jefferson City, MO. Virtual participation opportunities available. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/maaeSMarts>*



Participate in Fine Arts Education Day at the State Capitol March 23, 2022 *Students meet their legislators and enjoy student performances in the rotunda. Teachers can register their performance groups and learn more at <https://bit.ly/MAAEfaed>*



Win an All-Expense Paid Trip to Washington, D.C.

*Participate in our essay contest and you could become Missouri's National Student Arts Advocate, participate in the 2022 National Arts Advocacy Summit and join Missouri's Congressional Delegation in our Nation's Capitol in 2023. **Deadline for submissions 1/31/22***

Other contest
info here →



Contact Phyllis Pasley, Executive Director - email: director@moaae.org
Andrea Branstetter, SMarts Coordinator - email advocacy@moaae.org
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Washington University in St. Louis

The Giving Gathering: 11th Annual Food and Gift Drive at Dana's By Jennifer Hawkins

The St. Clair R-XIII Challenge Program partnered with Dana's Shaved Ice for their annual food and gift drive on Sunday, Dec. 12, 2021 from 1:00 pm-3:00 pm.

Community members dropped off food items for local food pantries and gifts for "Friends of Kids with Cancer." Dana donated free hot chocolate to those who donated, and the Challenge program provided Christmas Karaoke, tabletop s'mores, face painting, and games. Participants also had the opportunity to get their pictures taken with Anna, Elsa, and some of Santa's helpers. They also had the opportunity to purchase kettle corn and Bob & Pat's BBQ.

This is the 4th year the Challenge program has partnered with Friends of Kids with Cancer. They collect toys for children undergoing treatment for cancer and blood-related diseases. The Friends of Kids with Cancer organization stocks toy closets located in area hospitals; they provide toys for younger children and gift cards for teens.

<https://www.friendsofkids.com/>







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CA²

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For more information, visit maryville.edu/ca2

UPCOMING FOR STUDENTS

The Maryville Science and Robotics Program and The Teen Tech Program offer engaging opportunities this summer for students ages 4-14 who are interested in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. Pending Covid-19 approvals, the program is tentatively planned for July 11-15 and 18-22. Registration is tentatively planned to begin in late January.

To Register: maryville.edu/robot

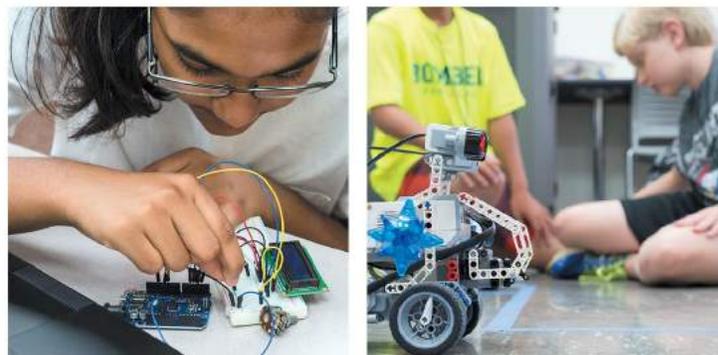
Questions: email stem@maryville.edu or call 314.281.1120

UPCOMING FOR TEACHERS

Teachers earn a certificate in STEM Education through hands-on learning experiences to integrate STEM into classrooms. Now PK-12 teachers, librarians, media specialists, technology trainers, principals, instructional coaches, and others interested in meeting state and national standards while engaging students in STEM can participate in this innovative program. Learn to integrate STEM into the classroom with research-based best practices led by expert educators in the field. Two options available: live virtual spring session and in-person summer session. Registering for in-person summer session now.

To Register: maryville.edu/STEMcert

Questions: mschoeck@maryville.edu



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State Advocacy Update

By Kyna Iman

GIFTED ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI 2022 State Advocacy Agenda

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

FUNDING FOR GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Support legislation that requires 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.

House Bill 1810, sponsored by Rep. Aaron Griesheimer (R-Washington) and Senate Bill 806, sponsored by Senator Denny Hoskins (R-Warrensburg) have been filed to address GAM’s number one priority legislation for the 2022 session.

MISSOURI SCHOLARS ACADEMY & MISSOURI FINE ARTS ACADEMY

Support \$750,000 in state funding for the Missouri Scholars Academy and Missouri Fine Arts Academy for June, 2023.

- The Scholars Academy is a three-week residential program at MU for 330 rising high school juniors who are academically gifted;
- The Fine Arts Academy is a two-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 \$3.56 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.

2022 GAM DAY AT THE CAPITOL IS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, AT 10:00 AM

You can find your legislators by visiting the Missouri Senate website. Legislative Look-Up: www.senate.mo.gov/lookup/leg_lookup.aspx It will give you contact information and a webpage on your Legislators.

If you have questions, please contact GAM's Governmental Consultant, Kyna Iman, at kynaiman@earthlink.net



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All courses listed meet requirements for Missouri Gifted Certification.

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



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)
- Practicum: Gifted Education (SPC_ED 8946)

SUMMER SEMESTER 2022

- 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 2022

- 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)

LEARN MORE online.missouri.edu/GAMbit-F21



Marshall Robotics Team #4903, Bueker Bots, qualify at FIRST Lego League Challenge Tournament

By Lori Peel



Team members: Kye Wilcoxson, Jack Thompson, Hudson Green, Meg Linsenbardt, and Aleks Simic

FIRST LEGO® League (FLL®) Team #4903, Bueker Bots, comprised of sixth grade students representing Marshall Public Schools competed Saturday, December 4, in a FLL qualifier at Camdenton, Missouri.

FIRST LEGO® League (FLL®) introduces young people, grades 4-8, to the fun and excitement of science and technology while building self-confidence, knowledge, and valuable life skills. During this event, the team competed with other students from the Central Missouri region. Teams were challenged to research a real-world problem and develop a possible solution, build and program a Lego Mindstorm EV3 robot to run autonomous missions on a field competition table, while exemplifying FIRST Core Values. This year's challenge, Cargo Connect, inspired students to improve the transportation of products. The team's solution addressed stream-lining delivery services to help reduce cost and carbon footprint associated with package delivery.

At the Central Missouri Qualifier, 19 teams competed for a top spot. Bueker Bots received the Core Values Award, advancing them to the Missouri East/Central Championship Event which will be held on February 5, 2022, in Florissant, Missouri.

Coach Lori Peel commented, "Our team did a wonderful job representing Marshall, and I am very proud of them. I look forward to seeing what they will accomplish as they prepare for the Championship!"



Helping Students Advocate for Gifted Education

Question:

Dear Kyna Iman,

I am a gifted student. I enjoy my gifted program. The gifted program helps me in ways a classroom cannot. Is there any legislation that I can be an advocate for? I know that there are only four states that fully fund their gifted programs. Is Missouri trying to become another one? I hope to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Levi

Third Grade

Ms. Chang's Rose Acres Elementary Schools PEGS Class

January 13, 2022

Response:

Dear Levi,

I am so excited you are wanting to become an advocate for gifted education in our schools! Rep. Brenda Shields, who is a State Representative from St. Joseph, has filed House Bill 2366. Her legislation would require every school district to establish a state-approved gifted program for gifted children. In the Senate, Senator Denny Hoskins, from Warrensburg, has filed Senate Bill 806, which contains the same requirement.

You can help get these bills passed by writing your State Representative and State Senator and urge their support. If you are in the Pattonville School District, your State Representative Paula Brown is the Ranking Minority Member of the House

Education Committee - where the HB 2366 will be heard.

You can learn more about who your legislators are or read the bills by going to the House and Senate websites.

It should be noted that actually 43 states require services or programs in their schools for gifted students. Missouri is still far behind neighboring states with regards to funding gifted education. Iowa and Oklahoma fully fund their gifted programs. Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Kansas, and Nebraska offer partial, dedicated funding. Missouri and Illinois are the only states that do not offer earmarked funding for gifted education. It is also of note that many comments made on the survey conducted by small and/or rural school districts mentioned lack of sufficient funding as a barrier to providing services.

Thank you for reaching out, Levi. Let me know if you would like to come visit your legislators at the State Capitol or testify at our upcoming hearings to support HB 2366 and SB 806.

Keep up the good fight!

Kyna Iman
GAM Legislative Advocate



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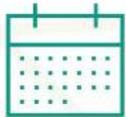
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When Teamwork Meets Critical Thinking

Megan Mann

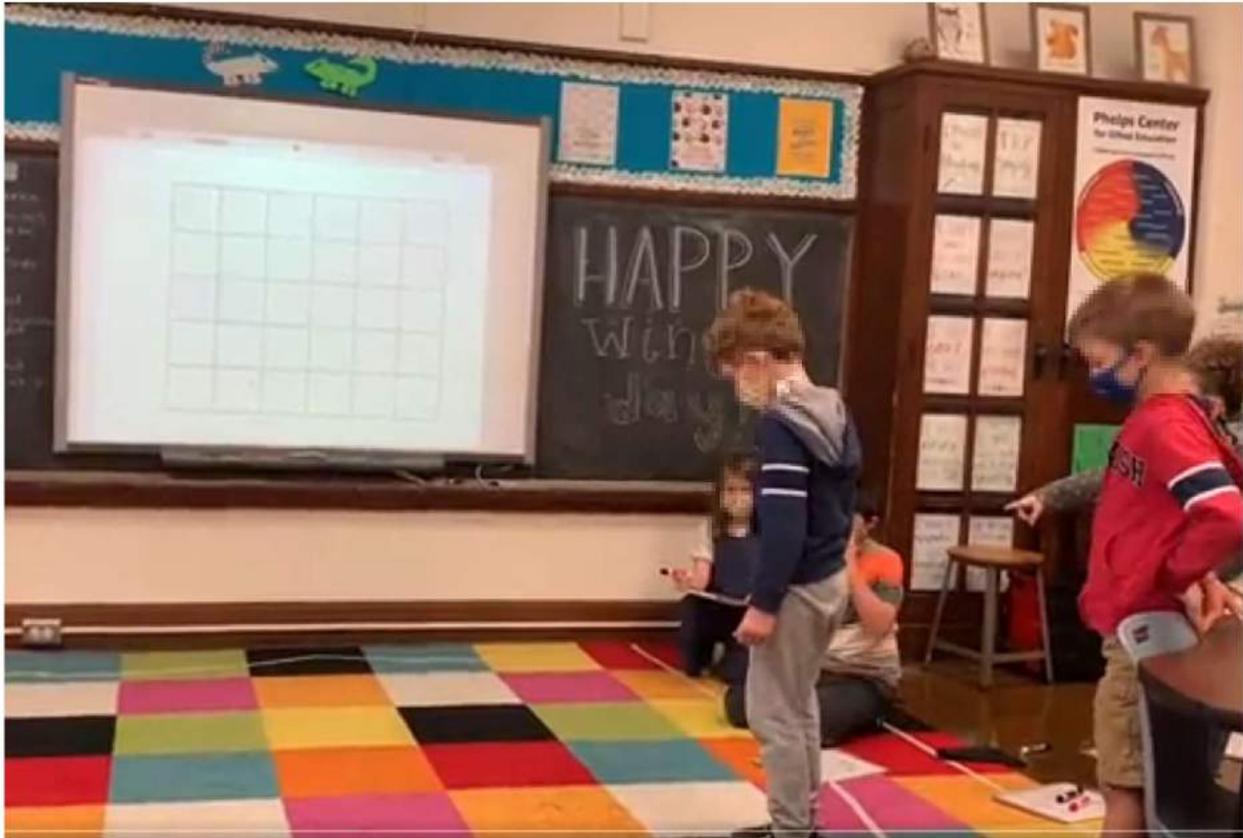
1st & 2nd Grade Gifted Educator @ Phelps Center for Gifted Education

GAM Board Secretary

1st and 2nd grade WINGS students at the Phelps Center for Gifted Education learned the nuances of teamwork with a critical thinking challenge. Our young students have never experienced a full school year without COVID protocols. As a result, students' opportunities to practice teamwork in an educational setting have been drastically limited, which has become a barrier in cooperative and collaborative learning. As a response, my colleagues and I developed a lesson in which students were able to develop their teamwork skills.

We began by reading the story *When Pencil Met Eraser* by Karen Kilpatrick and Luis O. Ramos, Jr. and discussing how it can feel when you have previously been an independent learner and now are working with others. As one student said, "It's really hard when you have a great idea or you want to do something your way, then someone else comes in and completely changes your plan or they just don't listen to you because they think their idea is better." We gave students various examples and nonexamples of proper teamwork and discussed the role empathy and communication play in being an effective team. The hardest part was understanding that communication in a team environment is 90% listening and 10% speaking. After the story and rich discussion, the students were presented with a challenge: to get two of their teammates across a secret path consecutively without any mistakes.

This activity provided students ample opportunity to practice teamwork, communication, empathy, perseverance, critical thinking, adaptability, conflict management, problem solving, and organization. What we did not plan for, though, was the increase in trust and strengthened relationships between students. It was not intended to be a community building exercise, but it certainly did serve as one. We hope you and your students enjoy this activity as much as we did!



The Rules

1. All students start off behind the grid. Student A will step onto a spot on the first row. The teacher will state either “correct” or “incorrect.” If they step onto the incorrect space, they move to the back of the line and Student B would try a different space on the first row.
2. Once a student has correctly identified the starting space, they are eligible to continue the path by choosing a space which is adjacent or diagonal to the one on which they are standing Repeat step 1 until the students have correctly identified the second space.
3. When step 2 has been identified correctly, that student will continue by choosing a space adjacent or diagonal to their current space, but may not move backwards.
4. Repeat the steps until the students have correctly identified the sequence of the secret path and two students have consecutively walked the path without any mistakes. In between rounds, we discussed what went well and what we could improve upon.

The Setup:

1. Create a large grid on the ground. We used a 5x6 grid for our students, but increasing the number of spaces possible would, in turn, increase the difficulty. To create the grid, you can use painter's tape, chalk, tape papers to the ground, etc. My room was lucky enough to have a rug with a grid-like pattern and I taped off the unneeded spaces.
2. Create a secret path. *Note: The grid on the left would be the easiest, as there are no horizontal movements. The grid on the right is considerably more difficult due to the number of horizontal movements and number of steps.*

	6			
	5			
		4		
			3	
		2		
	1			

	9			
8				
	7	6		
		5	4	
		3	2	
			1	

Optional: Print off a blank grid and laminate it or put it in a sleeve protector so students can annotate and keep track of which spaces are correct vs incorrect. We showed our students how to annotate with a small x or red number to show it was an incorrect move and numbering the spaces which were correct rather than marking out an entire box or putting a checkmark for correct (example below.) To increase the challenge, the teacher can choose not to provide instruction on possible annotation strategies or may decide to not provide a blank grid.

	3x, 4x	3x 4	4x
2x, 3x	2	3	4x
2x	1	2x	

Remembering Vicky Bennett

By Erin Gunter

Vicky Bennett is remembered through GAM's Vicky Bennett Distinguished Student Award, which honors a student in grades 3-6 each year for academic achievement, leadership, and/or the arts. More information can be found on www.mogam.org.

Vicky Bennett earned a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts Education from the University of Missouri and her master's degree in Education from Columbia College. We were blessed to have Vicky as a teacher at the Hallsville School District from 1989 until her passing in 2018. She taught art for 12 years and then moved to gifted education for 17 years. In 2014 Vicky was named Gifted Association of Missouri's Outstanding Teacher of the Year. She served as a member of the GAM board as a Regional District Director and as a chairperson for the Scholarship Committee. Vicky also taught classes each summer at College for Kids, a camp for gifted kids.

Vicky was known for having a great sense of humor, a warm and outgoing personality, and an infectious smile. She always had a comment or story that would make you laugh. Vicky's students thrived in her classroom. She pushed them to grow both academically and personally through classroom activities that fostered exploration and through the personal connection she was able to make with each one. Outside of the classroom Vicky cherished her family and her role as "Mom", her pets, and exercising her amazing creativity through art.

Vicky was such a special person. I knew her as a colleague and as my children's gifted teacher. The artist who drew this portrait is Bella Abell. Bella was one of Vicky's gifted and talented students as is currently a freshman at Hallsville High School.



SEE YOU THIS SPRING!



Have an idea for an ad or article?
Please email Alex Pagnani at
Pagnani@ucmo.edu

All submissions due by April 15th.