

*An Official Publication of the Gifted Association of Missouri*



## **A Letter from the President**

*By Dr. Tracy Bednarick-Humes*

Hi all and Happy Spring!

Since other GAM board members are offering their bios in the next few issues of the GAMbit, I thought I would offer mine here as well. I live in District 8 between St. Louis and Arnold, MO and serve as the gifted coordinator for Lindbergh Schools. It is going to be a busy year for me because we are moving both our gifted elementary enrichment program (LEAP) and our PEGS (program for exceptionally gifted students) elementary program to a new (well, retrofitted) building this coming school year. It's going to be a big undertaking to unite two programs under one roof, but we are up for the challenge. Our gifted program serves almost 10% of our district's population, so we are busy people even without moving buildings! In the area of gifted programming, I'm particularly interested in designing programs that meet the needs of twice exceptional students, as I have a nephew who is

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# President's Letter

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autistic and gifted. Outside of gifted programming, I'm a middle school teacher at heart and love all things in science education!

When not doing school stuff, I love to travel and be outdoors. My husband and I do a lot of camping and floating in the summer. We also enjoy outdoor music festivals. Our families live in Michigan, so we spend a lot of time up north, as well. We are both fond of cooking and baking and always looking to try new recipes. We also love fine dining, but find that we often can make better food at home! I'm an avid reader; although, I never have enough time to read. Currently, I'm enjoying World War I and II historical fiction.

Now for the GAM news. Unfortunately, we will not be rescheduling GAM Day at the Capitol; however, Kyna Iman has graciously offered to set up a visit with your area's legislators if you plan a trip of your own to the Capitol. Just shoot her an email ([kynaiman@earthlink.net](mailto:kynaiman@earthlink.net)). For our awards, we will be sending recognition plaques to previous awardees and recognizing the 2022-23 Awardees at our Fall Conference.

Speaking of the conference, we have a tentative location at Truman State University. The dates are the evening of Friday, October 6 and all-day, Saturday, October 7, 2023. Our theme is the "Gifted Network," and it's all about making connections! We have just started our official Call for Proposals, so if you're interested in putting your idea out there, feel free to fill out your proposal submittal now, using the following link: <https://forms.gle/mpYbPMDBi5DxiysB8>.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to seeing many faces at our April 15th GAM Board meeting at Lindenwood University. Feel to reach out if you have any questions or suggestions for GAM ([tracybednarick@lindberghschools.ws](mailto:tracybednarick@lindberghschools.ws)).

# Mark Your Calendar

## *Upcoming GAM Events*

**April 15:** GAM Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Lindenwood University, St. Charles, Mo

**April 17:** Gifted Speaker Series - Advocating for Gifted Education - The Power of Social Media, Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gifted-speaker-series-advocating-for-gifted-the-power-of-social-media-tickets-391230349507>

**July 24 & 25:** New Teacher Conference, Lindenwood University, St. Charles, Mo

**July 24:** GAM Board Meeting at Lindenwood University, St. Charles, Mo

**September 16:** GAM Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo

**October 6 & 7, 2023:** Annual GAM Conference, Truman State University, Kirksville, Mo

## Attending the New Teacher Conference in July?

Take advantage of the special rate of \$129 per night at the Hampton Inn & Suites/St. Charles Old Town Area!

**Hampton Inn & Suites**  
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**Association of Missouri**  
**block rate.**



**Or [Click here](#)**  
**to reserve a room online**  
**at the special rate**



KANSAS CITY AREA MATH TEACHERS

# DATA SCIENCE

TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY

## MATH MODULES WORKSHOP

April 13, 2023

MCC-Penn Valley, Kansas City, MO – 4-6pm



Grades 5 – Algebra II  
Free Professional Development  
Register at [data.truman.edu](https://data.truman.edu)

**FREE** regional workshops where university faculty will introduce the developed modules, help you explore the material, and ask questions about how to successfully incorporate the concepts into topics you are already teaching.

There will be data science related materials for attendees and their classrooms, and refreshments to fuel your body and brain for the workshop.



ST. LOUIS AREA MATH TEACHERS

# DATA SCIENCE

TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY

## MATH MODULES WORKSHOP

April 20, 2023

STLCC – Forest Park, St. Louis, MO – 4-6pm



Grades 5 – Algebra II  
Free Professional Development  
Register at [data.truman.edu](https://data.truman.edu)

**FREE** regional workshops where university faculty will introduce the developed modules, help you explore the material, and ask questions about how to successfully incorporate the concepts into topics you are already teaching.

There will be data science related materials for attendees and their classrooms, and refreshments to fuel your body and brain for the workshop.



# DATA SCIENCE

TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY

## RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR ALL CONTENT AREAS

Check it all out at [data.truman.edu](https://data.truman.edu)

- Math modules developed by Truman faculty and Missouri high school teachers
- Social studies and math module developed by Missouri high school teachers
- Extensive resource page organized by content area
- Data science career and degree pathway information





## Legislative Update

by Kyna Iman

As the Legislature returns from Spring Break, and we enter into the second half of the legislative session, here are issues that GAM is tracking:

### House Mark-up Process

The House Budget Committee completed the FY 2024 budget mark-up process after a marathon hearing on March 23. The full Budget Committee adopted the House Subcommittee for Education recommendation to fund the Missouri Scholars Academy and the Missouri Fine Arts Academy at \$850,000! This is full funding, meaning no student will be charged tuition to attend either Academy.

Next step is holding the funding in the budget as the Senate begins their budget mark-up. Thank you everyone who called their State Representative to support the Academy funding. Please continue to reach out to your State Senator to request his/her support for the \$850,000 in DESE's budget for MSA & MFAA.

### Open Enrollment

The House debated the "open enrollment" legislation - HB 253, sponsored by Representative Brad Pollitt (R-Sedalia). The bill is the House companion bill to SB 5, sponsored by Senator Andrew Koenig (R-Manchester). The bill outlines the procedures and policies necessary to allow students to transfer between school districts. The bill also includes voluntary surveys for parents to take if they decide to change districts, requires the school board and superintendent of a district to vote on any student they are rejecting, clarifies language if there is an issue of joint custody of a child, allows other educational groups besides DESE to develop policies, adds additional data to be collected by DESE to formulate a yearly report on transfer students, and adds a dollar amount to the issue of lost property tax dollars.

### Public School Retirement System

The House Pensions Committee convened to discuss HB 257, sponsored by Representative Brad Pollitt (R-Sedalia). The bill allows retired teachers to teach for four years, instead of only two, in school districts covered by the Public School Retirement System if there is a shortage of certified teachers. MO State Teachers Association, MO NEA, Aligned and MO Retired Teachers Association supported the bill and stated the bill would not harm the system, but would provide another tool to school districts to allow seasoned teachers to continue to teach and address the teacher shortage. No opposing testimony was presented. PSRS/PEERS provided informational testimony and informed committee members that there would be no impact on the system.

# Legislative Update *continued from Page 7*

## Parents Bill of Rights

The House Elementary & Secondary Education Committee convened to discuss HB 627, sponsored by Representative Phil Christofanelli (R-St. Peters). The bill establishes the "Parents Bill of Rights" governing transparency and accessibility for parents in public education. Rights as defined in the bill include the right to access and review curriculum in a timely manner, the right to choose educational options as allowed by law, the right to opt a child out of instruction in a topic or of content deemed inappropriate or disagreeable to the parent in a timely fashion, and a prohibition on schools compelling or requiring a course or instruction on the topics of racial, ethnic, or national origin superiority.

The committee then turned its attention towards HB 482, sponsored by Representative Ben Baker (R-Neosho). The bill is similar to HB 627, highlighted above. In addition to including the "Parents Bill of Rights", this bill also requires school districts to post the salaries, compensation, and benefits of public-school districts on the Missouri Accountability Portal. Also, the bill provides annual authorization for participation in athletics, extracurricular, or classroom-related field trips. Additionally, requires DESE to develop an online platform for searchable and accessible review of curriculum, course materials, and instructional materials. Lastly, requires school districts to promptly notify families of an incident of criminal activity on a campus or building or threat to the safety of students. America First Works, Missouri Century Foundation, Missouri Baptist Convention, and several parents supported both bills. Missouri Council of School Administrators, Missouri Equity Education Partnership, American Atheists, Jewish Community Relations Council, League of Women Voters of Missouri, Missouri NEA, ACLU of Missouri, along with several teachers and state advocates opposed both bills.

## MISSOURI RELEASES SCHOOL PERFORMANCE DATA

In conditions some might describe as a perfect storm, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) released the annual performance report for the 2021-22 school year this week. DESE used the state's latest iteration of the Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP 6) for the first time, measuring student progress against a much more rigorous standard following two years of COVID-related interruptions and a teaching workforce comprised of the highest percentage of substitute teachers in recent history. Here are the key takeaways:

- Of the more than 550 public school districts and public charter schools (LEAs) that DESE evaluated, at least 120 schools scored 60% or below.

- More than 100 LEAs received zero points for attendance.
- 112 LEAs scored low enough for DESE to classify them as "provisionally accredited."

*"MSIP 6 is designed to distinguish the performance of schools and LEAs in meaningful ways to help identify areas in need of support and recognize models of excellence,"* said Commissioner of Education Margie Vandeven. *"For the release of this pilot year data, we encourage stakeholders, including community partners and families, to focus less on the APR score and more on the underlying data to learn how they may better support student learning."*

# INTERESTED IN GIFTED EDUCATION?

## Lindenwood University

- Online option-- perfect for busy teachers
- Lindenwood's MA in Gifted Education program ranked #1 among the Best Education/ Teaching of the Gifted and Talented Schools
- Certification and MA option (30 credit hours)
- \$551/ credit hour
- <https://tinyurl.com/5n9xnn7p>

There is a shortage of gifted teachers in Missouri and we want to change that by offering two paths to certification!

## Maryville University

- In-person classes offered on Parkway School District's campus
- \$329.20 per credit hour (this is a 20% discount)
- Option of a gifted certification or a Master's in Gifted
- A cohort of 8 or more students is needed
- Certification is 5 classes and a practicum
- <https://tinyurl.com/4t6255p6>



 Keep 'em Thinking!

**Interested?:**  
**Take this survey.**

For further details, please contact  
Dr. Mollie Glazer, Assessment and Gifted Lead Teacher  
[mglazer@parkwayschools.net](mailto:mglazer@parkwayschools.net) 314.415.7028



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→ [belinblank.org/academy](https://belinblank.org/academy)



## DESE Gifted Education Update March 2023

Christine Nobbe  
Director of Gifted Education  
[Christine.Nobbe@dese.mo.gov](mailto:Christine.Nobbe@dese.mo.gov)



### Powerful Learning Conference

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The Powerful Learning Conference, with 1000+ attendees, 62 concurrent sessions, three keynote speakers, and two gifted education breakout sessions, was successful! The Call for Proposals for #MOPWR2024 on January 29-30, 2024 will be coming out soon. The theme is *Innovating and Educating*. Attendees are educators and administrators from all over the state. Please consider submitting a proposal!

### Portrait of a Gifted Learner and MO-GLOs

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Since these were published on the DESE Gifted Education page in October, I have been sharing widely. I have several ideas for next steps; for example, a document defining key terms, ideas on how to document student growth, and a media package with the colors and icons. I am curious if gifted programs are adapting and using the Portrait of a Gifted Learner and the MO-GLOs. If you are, I'd love to hear from you!

### Professional Learning

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The 2023 Gifted and Talented Tuesday events are underway! Please take a look at the flier on the [DESE Gifted Education webpage](#) (in the Quick Links) and mark your calendars! I have several guest speakers lined up. **Of particular interest is Dr. Judy Willis on April 18 at 3:30 PM.** "Dr. Judy Willis, a board-certified neurologist combined her 15 years as a practicing neurologist with ten subsequent years as a classroom teacher to become a leading authority in the neuroscience of learning. With her unique background as both in neuroscience and education, she has written ten books and more than 200 articles about applying neuroscience

research to classroom teaching strategies." (from her website radteach.com) Her talk is "What Neuroscience Tells Us about Teaching and Learning."

I scheduled Gifted Education Summer 2023 Workshops! Please see the workshop handout for further information. All of the workshops can be found in an Eventbrite collection: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/gifted-education-summer-2023-workshops-1740869> )

### Desk Audits and Data

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The number of students identified as "Gifted Served" decreased, according to October 2022 data. The average decrease per district was 3.1% but there was a range with several districts decreasing their Gifted Served students by 20% or more and other districts serving more students than the previous year. Please take a look at your data and determine if your identification process is working to identify students. Do you need to write an alternative identification plan?

### MSA and MFAA

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MSA received 335 applications. Students will be notified mid-March and the last day to accept MSA invitations is March 31, 2023. MSA runs from June 11-July 1 at University of Missouri – Columbia. MSA is bringing back Teacher Appreciation Day this summer. More information at: <https://moscholars.missouri.edu/>

MFAA runs from June 4-17 at Missouri State University - Springfield. More information at: <https://www.missouristate.edu/MFAA/>

### Go Missouri!

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As I am reading the [State of the States in Gifted Education](#) report, I am impressed with the progress Missouri is making in gifted education. Thank you for all you do to make Missouri a great place to be a gifted kiddo!

*-Christine*



# Gifted Education Summer 2023 Workshops

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*Go to Eventbrite to learn more and to register:*

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/gifted-education-summer-2023-workshops-1740869>

*Workshops are being hosted by Christine Nobbe, Director of Gifted Education*

## Gifted Education Lesson Exchange

*In-person in Jefferson City at the Governor Office Building*

*June 13, 2023, 10 AM to 3 PM*

*OR*

*August 1, 10 AM to 3 PM*

Gifted education specialists do it all - identify students, write curriculum, teach classes, provide professional learning to staff, evaluate the gifted program... The purpose of this workshop and networking event is to share lessons/activities/mini-units to be used in gifted classrooms across Missouri. Each attendee will give one and get several!

The Eventbrite page will be updated in May with more specific details but the basic agenda includes:

- Icebreakers
- Introduction to Portrait of a Gifted Learner and MO Gifted Learner Outcomes
- Lesson Sharing
- Lunch (looking into this, but it will be pay your own way)
- Sharing of program best practices, in small groups
- Discussion of next steps

Criteria for lessons/activities/mini-units:

- designed for gifted students (any age Pre-K-12)
- original work, no copyrighted materials
- can be focused on any area of STEAM, the humanities, SEL, etc.
- shared digitally in a Google Folder

## Bootcamp for Gifted Program Leaders

*Virtual using Zoom*

*June 14, 2023, 1:00 – 3:00 PM*

*OR*

*June 15, 10:00 – Noon*

*Log in 30 minute early for networking*

New to Gifted Education or want to find out what is new in the field? Either way, the Bootcamp is for you!

# Certificate in STEM Education

## Two Opportunities available!

In-person (M-F)

8:30-4:00 p.m.

Virtual: January - April, 2024

Weekly classes 5:00-9:30 p.m.

**Teachers earn a certificate in STEM Education through hands-on learning experiences to integrate STEM into classrooms.** There is a tremendous national and global need for increased education integrating science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) to bolster the pipeline of talented individuals ready for 21st century careers. 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.

### Includes:

- Creativity
- Critical Thinking
- Problem Solving
- Makerspace
- Novel Engineering
- Project Based Learning
- Robotics
- Coding

\*6 University credits can be earned for an additional fee

Register by December 15th or May 15th.

Total Program Cost = \$990

For additional questions, contact:

Michelle Schoeck at [mschoeck@maryville.edu](mailto:mschoeck@maryville.edu)



**Register Now!**



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MANY CONNECTIONS. ONE U.



*White House: Pictured from left are Larkin Baker, Kyle Tedrick, Ash Hill, and Elliott Showers.*

## St. Clair Jr High Represents MO in DC at Future City Competition

*by Jennifer Hawkins*

Missouri middle school teams throughout the state participated in the Future City Regional Competition at Missouri S&T in Rolla, Missouri on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023.

The Future City Competition is an engineering competition where middle school students are challenged to create a city of the future using the Engineering Design Process. Each year, teams are asked to address a citywide sustainability issue. This year's challenge was to address climate change. The competition deliverables included a project plan, essay, scale model, Q&A, and a presentation.

Eleven teams from the following schools participated in the Missouri Future City Competition.



*Pictured from left are Elliott Showers, Larkin Baker, Ash Hill, and Kyle Tedrick.*



*Friends and Family Night*



*Pictured from left are Kyle Tedrick, Elliott Showers, Ash Hill, and Larkin Baker.*

# Future City Competition *continued from Page 14*

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- Wydown Middle School (three teams)
- Sullivan Middle School
- Senn-Thomas Middle School (three teams)
- Hallsville Middle School
- St. Clair Junior High School (two teams)
- Akademia Kaotic, Rolla Area Homeschool Co-Op

After presenting to two sets of judges in the preliminary round, the scores were calculated, and the top five teams were announced. The top five teams presented on stage to a new panel of judges to determine the following places:

1st Place: Keal Grünestadt, St. Clair Junior High School

2nd Place: Paznio, Senn-Thomas Middle School

3rd Place: Ulu Ana - Wydown Middle, Clayton

4th Place: Hallsville GATE, Hallsville

5th Place: Akademia Kaotic, Rolla Area Homeschool Cooperative, Rolla

The first-place team, Keal Grünestadt, was given the opportunity to represent Missouri at the national competition in Washington DC from Feb. 18-22, 2023. The team's skit takes place at the city's 105th annual Fehmarn Festival, where the citizens of Keal Grünestadt celebrate the reconstruction of the island of Fehmarn! Keal Grünestadt, also known as Keal Green City, is the largest city on the island of Fehmarn, Germany, and it was founded after the Fehmarn belt Tunnel opened in 2033. The team's focus is eliminating pollution to reduce greenhouse gases. Their adaptation involves a unique innovation they call Vortex Towers. The Vortex Towers clean the air while generating energy for their city. Keal Grünestadt uses several mitigation strategies to combat the pollution problem. Strategies include government policy, Advanced Perovskite Solar Panels or APSP, Pavegen Sidewalks, sodium batteries, and algae buildings. The team members are Ash Hill, Larkin Baker, Kyle Tedrick, and Elliott Showers.

The 8th-grade team, Paznio, from Senn-Thomas Middle School was the runner-up. They shared their solution at the Missouri State Capitol on Thursday, March 2, 2023, at STEM DAY. Paznio

# Future City Competition *continued from Page 15*

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is set 150 years in the future. The city is designed to allow and encourage citizens to walk from place to place and keep our carbon footprint low. The use of PAVEGEN ( a technology that creates energy from footsteps ) is widely used in the city. Paznio's main commercial and many residential buildings are equipped with rooftop gardens that feed the community. The city is one example of many cities the team hopes to see in the future of our world. Team members are Samantha Drinen, Olivia Blair, Matthew Ford, and Leo Moses.

This year, in addition to the eleven teams that participated in person, the Missouri Future City competition included over 50 educators reaching over 2000 middle school students throughout Missouri and into Arkansas.

## **About the National Competition**

The St. Clair Jr. High team, Keal Grünestadt, traveled to Washington DC to compete in the Future City National Competition that took place Feb. 18-22, 2023. There were 41 teams competing from across the US and internationally. At the national competition, teams presented their Future City's solution to three sets of judges and also answered interview questions from 18 sets of special awards judges. They earned the "Most Innovative Use of Glass for Sustainability Award" sponsored by The American Ceramic Society/Ceramic Glass Industry Foundation. While in DC, they also toured the White House, Capitol, and several national monuments.

Congratulations to all of the Future City award winners. If you'd like to find out more about Future City, visit <https://futurecity.org/>.



# TOP-RANKED GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAM AT MIZZOU.

## 100% ONLINE - MISSOURI GIFTED CERTIFICATION COURSEWORK + EARN YOUR MASTER'S IN GIFTED EDUCATION

University of Missouri-Columbia's (Mizzou) College of Education and Human Development offers an exciting option for teachers looking to maximize the rewards of working with gifted students — entirely online.



Build your capacity for care through course work that dives into subjects like curriculum methods, assessment and evaluation and the needs of gifted students.



Grow the demand for your skillset and your potential for earning with an advanced degree and further your success in the field of gifted education. In two to three years, achieve a broadened range of career possibilities.



In just 30 credit hours, establish yourself, earn your worth and enrich the learning and teaching experience for gifted students in elementary, middle or high school classrooms.

When you're ready to take the step to advance in your career, the Mizzou gifted education master's program offers flexible, affordable and convenient online courses that will take your talents in gifted education to a new level.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

**Jena K. Randolph, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor, Department of Special Education  
Online Program Director  
RandolphJ@missouri.edu  
573-884-1911

**LEARN MORE** [online.missouri.edu/GAMbit](https://online.missouri.edu/GAMbit)



# Unit Spotlight: Gifted Bootcamp

by Phoebe Pullman, Gifted and Talented Teacher,  
Perryville Elementary School

Like many gifted instructors across the state, I hear questions about giftedness from my students on a daily basis such as, “Why am I in gifted class?” and “Why do I get to come to gifted class and do fun things when my classmates stay in class all day?” As a first year gifted instructor of 2nd-5th graders, I quickly found that short and concise answers to these questions rarely satisfy the intrapersonal curiosity of my students, and maybe more importantly, short and concise answers to these questions do not exist. In order to help my students better understand the purpose of gifted class, I designed a “Gifted Bootcamp” unit based on DESE’s “Portrait of a Gifted Learner,” which summarizes the six main skill areas of the Missouri Gifted Learner Outcomes (MO-GLO’s).

Due to the nature of gifted education being more skill based, rather than content based, it can be hard for students to grasp the concept of learning and growing skills such as complex reasoning and creative thinking when they are used to learning content, such as reading, writing, and math, in their general education classrooms. The purpose of Gifted Bootcamp is to introduce students to the six skill areas of the MO-GLO’s; complex reasoning, creative thinking, affective processing, executive functioning skills, communicating effectively, and global mindedness. Once students can understand and define what each skill means, they are able to make connections between the “fun” activities



we do in gifted class and understand that the games, puzzles, and activities we do in gifted class are actually growing their gifted skills, rather than just being “fun.”

I see my students in small, grade level pull out groups four days a week for about 45 minutes each. With this schedule, Gifted Bootcamp took about two weeks to complete. We spent approximately one day on each main skill. I presented the main skill and the subskills, then we would do a lesson and activity based on the skill. Summaries of the lessons are as follows:

**COMPLEX REASONING:** Critical thinking, problem solving, and systems thinking.

Stations were organized around the room with the following instructions:

# Unit Spotlight *continued from Page 18*

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1. Organize random objects into categories
2. Organize a deck of cards into even and odd
3. Organize books from the library into categories

We ended with a class discussion of how stations 1 and 3 were complex because there were multiple different ways you could have organized the objects, and each organizer had to find the commonalities and create the categories, versus the “one answer” of even and odds. We ended by making a Frayer model of the definition of complex.

## **CREATIVE THINKING: Open mindedness, risk-taking, innovation skills, and divergent thinking**

Students are shown an empty aluminum soda can and have to come up with as many creative uses for the can as possible (example, diving board and swimming pool for water bugs). To emphasize the originality aspect of creative thinking, we then shared our ideas and each student got one point if they were the only person to think of their idea. The student with the most points at the end won the game. We then had a class discussion about how each sub-skill of creative thinking had to be used in this game.

## **AFFECTIVE PROCESSING: Intrapersonal, interpersonal, and leadership skills**

Students used an “All About Me” template to share aspects of their personalities and interests. We then discussed conversation and presenter norms and students took turns presenting their “All About Me” presentations.

## **EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING: Project management, self-regulation, adaptability, conflict resolution**

Students set a personal goal of how many of our “beginning of the hour activity” Perplexor puzzles they can correctly complete by the end of the quarter. They had to use the calendar and math skills to assess how many puzzles they had already correctly completed, and how many more they could correctly complete in the given time frame. After a one-on-one conference with me to approve or adjust their goal, they designed a personal tracking system that they update once a week as they correctly complete puzzles. The reward for reaching their goal is getting their picture put up on our gifted family bulletin board.

# Unit Spotlight *continued from Page 19*

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## **COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY: Self-expression, active listening, shared understanding, self-advocacy**

Students are split into two teams to play the game “Monikers” (Some people call it “Fishbowl”).

Directions for the game are as follows:

- Notecards with random words/phrases are placed in a bowl.
- Round 1: Students take turns selecting a card from the bowl and verbally explaining it to teammates. Teammates guess. The speaker keeps going until the 1 minute timer goes off. Play will continue until all cards are correctly guessed. The team gets one point for each correct answer.
- Round 2: Place all cards back in the bowl. The speaker can only use 1 word to describe the card. Students take turns selecting a card from the bowl and verbally explaining it to teammates. Teammates guess. The speaker keeps going until the 1 minute timer goes off. Play will continue until all cards are correctly guessed.
- Round 3: Place all cards back in the bowl. The speaker can only use motions to describe the card. Students take turns selecting a card from the bowl and verbally explaining it to teammates. Teammates guess. The speaker keeps going until the 1 minute timer goes off. Play will continue until all cards are correctly guessed.

## **GLOBAL MINDEDNESS: Awareness and appreciation, justice and service oriented, life-long learner**

The following stations are set up around the room:

1. Students pull a country card and locate it on the globe.
2. Students choose a country and research it on their Chromebook and record a fact they learned.
3. Students peruse nonfiction books about different countries and complete an “I wonder, I notice.”

At the end of the unit, students were able to understand and identify each gifted skill, and have a better understanding of the purpose of gifted class. Each day, the exit ticket to leave the gifted classroom is to look at the Portrait of a Gifted Learner on our Bootcamp bulletin board and point to a gifted skill they used that day. Students then have to explain to me how that skill connects to our daily lesson and how they used the skill in class.



## Seeking school partners for customized professional learning in arts integration



Bring more arts into your instructional practice. Gain strategies to reach your lesson objectives through personalized coaching in arts integration.

**Leverage the power of the arts to increase student engagement through this on-site customized PD at no cost to the school.** Learn more: <https://bit.ly/maaeACE>



Contact: Lauren Hanahan - Arts Integration Specialist [Lauren.Hanahan@moaae.org](mailto:Lauren.Hanahan@moaae.org)

Funding support from  Missouri Arts Council

## Unit Spotlight *continued from Page 20*

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With the addition of meta-cognitive thinking in our gifted classroom, I have seen a tremendous difference in student's learning. They now take ownership of their learning, and are even starting to be able to identify the skills they excel in, versus areas they can grow in. They are proud to "be the teacher" by identifying and explaining to me which skills they grow each day. I also hear less and less questions pertaining to the purpose of gifted class, and if I do hear one, a classmate usually calls out, "Look at the Bootcamp bulletin board!"



# 100% Online Gifted Education

Learn the skills you need to better identify gifted characteristics in students, develop effective curricula, and provide support throughout the learning process. You're in control with completely online study options. Complete the full Master's program, hand-pick a single course, or anything in between.

## WHY TRUMAN?

- An emphasis on current challenges and opportunities unique to gifted education
- A combination of education faculty and active expert practitioners
- Fully online coursework combined with practical field experience combined with practical field experience
- A program designed for the working professional

## MASTER OF ARTS IN GIFTED EDUCATION

Complete a 30 hour degree program and earn a Master's degree in gifted education.

## GIFTED CERTIFICATION

Also available is the option to take certification courses to earn an endorsement from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

## SUMMER 2023

- ED 550 G** — Introduction to Gifted and Talented\*
- ED 605 G** — Psychology of Exceptional Children (1st or 2nd 5-week)
- ED 626 G** — Creativity\*
- ED 650 G** — Identification of Gifted\*\*
- ED 652 G** — Affective Needs of Gifted\*
- ED 653 G** — Programming and Administration of Gifted\*\*

## FALL 2023

- ED 550 G** — Intro to Gifted & Talented\*
- ED 604 G** — Professional Learning: Gifted Policy, Practice, & Research\*\*
- ED 605 G** — Psychology of Exceptional Children^
- ED 632 G** — Research: Applied Education Psychology^
- ED 651 G** — Curriculum for Gifted\*

## SPRING 2024

- ED 605 G** — Psychology of Exceptional Children^
- ED 619 G** — Gifted Practicum^
- ED 632 G** — Research: Applied Education Psychology^

\* Offered first 8-week session

\*\* Offered second 8-week session

^ Full semester

\* Offered first 5-week session

\*\* Offered second 5-week session

^ Full semester

Learn more at:  
[gifted.truman.edu](http://gifted.truman.edu) or



## ABOUT IAGC

The Illinois Association for Gifted Children is a not-for-profit corporation that was established in 1989 by a small group of educators who wanted to create a voice within Illinois to further the opportunities to better understand the educational and social/emotional needs of gifted individuals. To that end, gifted educators, parents of gifted children, and other individuals continue to support the IAGC mission and related goals. IAGC is an Affiliate of the National Association for Gifted Children.

## ABOUT KGTC

The Kansas Association for the Gifted, Talented, and Creative is a non-profit, statewide, nationally affiliated organization of parents, educators, and professionals who support the education of gifted youth.



Illinois Association for Gifted Children



2023  
**LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**  
*Promising Practices*  
 Talent Development and  
 Advanced Learning Models for  
 Equity & Inclusion

virtual event  
**May 5, 2023**  
 9am - 2:30pm  
[iagcgifted.org](http://iagcgifted.org)

## GAM District 7 and KGTC Region 6 Host Joint Mini-Conference

The Gifted Association of Missouri's District 7 and the Kansas Association for the Gifted, Talented, and Creative's Region 6 hosted a joint mini-conference, titled "Sensory Needs and the Gifted Child," on March 31, 2023, at Missouri Southern State University. Presenters included Charla Holst and Stefanie McKoy. Charla Holst is an Occupational Therapy Consultant with 30 years of experience as an Occupational Therapist, 17 in public schools. Stefanie McKoy is a Ph.D. student and instructor at the University of Arkansas.

## NEWS FROM NEIGHBORING STATES

The Gifted Association of Missouri has started an initiative to collaborate with the gifted associations of nearby states. Our first collection of news comes from our neighboring state to the East, Illinois, and our neighboring state to the West,

Kansas. The greater St. Louis, Missouri metropolitan area includes school districts from many counties in southern Illinois, and the Kansas City metropolitan area includes school districts in many counties in Kansas.

# 2023

DRURY UNIVERSITY PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAMS

# CAMP



## SIGN UP NOW

**SUMMER PALS & SUMMER QUEST** June 19 – 30

Grades PK-5th, 8:30 am – 11:30 am

**SUMMERSCAPE** July 9-16

Grades 6, 7 & 8 classes AND Residential

**DRURY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY** July 9-16

Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12 classes AND Residential

**We are hoping to see you in 2023!**  
Please contact me with any questions  
Mary Potthoff, Director  
Center for Gifted Education  
mpotthof@drury.edu



[www.drury.edu/giftededucation](http://www.drury.edu/giftededucation)  
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Springfield, MO 65802  
417.873.7386

# GAM Bios

## Getting to Know the Board



### **Jennifer Hawkins**

**Gifted Teacher (one and only)  
St. Clair R-XIII School District  
GAM Region 6, Board Secretary**

"I have been teaching for 28 years, and this is my 16th year teaching gifted students. I enjoy camping, boating, swimming, watching my boys play football, going to plays, watching movies, playing cards/board games, and hanging out with friends and family."



### **Crystal Koenig**

**Gifted Education Specialist (sole)  
Ste. Genevieve School District  
GAM Region 1, Director**

"My hobbies include but are not limited to reading everything I can get my hands on, hiking every chance I get, spending time with my adult children, sudoku, futoshiki, crossword puzzles, logic puzzles, word puzzles, gardening, traveling the world, camping, cooking, exploring yoga, spending time in nature, fighting my perfectionism, and learning."



**Michelle Bobo**  
**K-8 Gifted Facilitator**  
**Washington School District**  
**GAM Region 6, Director**

"This is my 17th year teaching gifted, and I have been teaching for 24 years. I love spending time with my family. We enjoy boating, hunting, and anything outdoors. I grew up riding horses and still enjoy it today. My favorite food is french fries!"



**Ginger Beard**  
**Early Childhood Special Education teacher**  
**Bernie R-13 School District**  
**GAM Region 1, Assistant Director**

"I have been an educator for 26 years. I have taught kindergarten, ECSE, library, summer school enrichment, and gifted. I was the K-12 gifted facilitator for 9 years as a "lonely only" and managed an afterschool club for gifted students when the program was cut. I have served on the GAM Board as the Region 1 Director, Assistant Director, and as Board Secretary. I have also served at the state level on the Advisory Council on the Education of Gifted and Talented Children for the past few years. I am married to my high school sweetheart, Rick, who farms. We have two grown sons, a daughter-in-law, and six grandchildren with whom we enjoy spending time. My hobbies include reading, traveling, and photography."

Gifted Association of Missouri

**WE**  
 **WANT TO**  
**KNOW**  
**YOU!**

Send us  
your Bio!

WHAT  
REGION?

GIFTED  
ROLE

HOBBIES  
AND LIKES

Send your bio to  
[GAMexecsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:GAMexecsecretary@gmail.com)

**More bios coming  
in future issues of  
the GAMbit**

College of Arts & Sciences

# PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAMS

Continue on your path of academic discovery!



[precollege.wustl.edu](http://precollege.wustl.edu)



Washington University in St. Louis

## A SUMMER EXPLORATION, INC.

At College for Kids a Summer Exploration, Inc the faculty and staff will create a learning environment where each participant will:

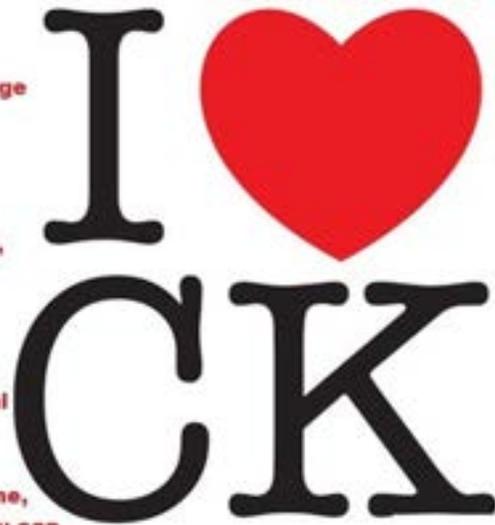
- \*Use his/her potential by studying a topic at an accelerated pace.
- \*Learn at a high level to prepare for advanced high school courses
- \*Experience a college environment: learning and connecting with academic peers
- \*Engage in hands-on, interdisciplinary activities....
- \*Establish a positive attitude toward academic, personal and social successes
- \*Find balance in a complex world
- \*Emerge confidence from within
- \*Find balance in a complete world
- \*Thrive under passionate teachers who recognize talent and encourage achievement
- \*Apply what he/she learns in creative ways
- \*Develop purpose: answer the questions, "who am I?"
- \*Live and interact with peers and older role models

College for Kids courses are designed with gifted students in mind, inviting them to direct their considerable talent and energy toward interdisciplinary projects and practical problem solving.

CK students engage in service-learning, present facts in a mock trial setting and learn advanced math and science by having the opportunity to dissect, mix chemicals and nurture students as critical thinkers and creative problem solvers.

They also create masterful prose and solve complex equations. Whether led by a teacher, fellow gifted peer or their own self-discipline, College for Kids students surprise even themselves by how much they can learn, achieve and grow in just one short week.

*Our highly trained staff is dedicated to supporting the development of all children. Our teachers and support staff use proven methodologies and a highly effective curriculum to help children grow academically, socially, and physically.*



**Session I - Grades 3 & 4,  
June 18 - 23**

**Session II - Grades 5 & 6  
June 25 - 30**

**Session III - Grades 7, 8 & 9  
July 9 - 15**

**visit our website  
collegeforkids.net**

**2023**



### Gifted Certification in Missouri

CONNECT WITH US AT  
[WWW.MOGAM.ORG](http://WWW.MOGAM.ORG) @GAMGIFTED

With the passing of language that mandates gifted education in Missouri, there will be an increased interest in the steps to become certified in gifted for grades K-12. Here is how to get started!

#### WHERE CAN I GET CERTIFIED?

Certification classes are offered at these universities:

- Columbia College ● Lindenwood University ●
- Maryville University ● Missouri State University ●
- Truman State University ● University of Missouri-Columbia

#### WHAT ARE THE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS?

A list of the certification requirements can be found at <https://dese.mo.gov/media/pdf/gifted-certification-requirements>



#### WHAT OTHER RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE?



GAM offers a New Teacher Workshop each summer to support new gifted teachers and administrators. To learn more or to register, go to <http://www.mogam.org/new-teacher-workshop-registration---info.html>

#### QUESTIONS?

Contact Chistine Nobbe, DESE, at [Christine.Nobbe@dese.gov](mailto:Christine.Nobbe@dese.gov)



## Missouri Scholars Academy Celebrates 39th Year

by Brian Stahlman

June will be upon us before we know it, bringing to Mizzou's Columbia campus some yearly gifts: a flourish of flowers, some short-sleeve heat, AND a bumper crop of students from across the state to take part in the Missouri Scholars Academy!

2023 marks the 39th iteration of MSA, a Missouri institution that embraces both 'continuity' and 'change.' Continuity: As in years past (back to 1985), MSA will welcome up to about 330 scholars...all rising high school juniors who have been nominated by their home schools and accepted by a selection committee.

Scholars will select a "major" class that they will take every morning for three hours, and a "minor" class that they will take every afternoon for one hour. Coupled with the minor,

scholars will also participate in a one-hour class called "COR-PSD"...COR for the heart, PSD for Personal and Social Dynamics...a class that focuses on social-emotional learning. These classes are taught by teachers from a variety of backgrounds, including traditional high schools, private schools, gifted classrooms, colleges and universities, and more.

During the three weeks of the Academy, scholars are housed at Mark Twain Hall on Mizzou's campus. This prime location with its attached dining facility is perfectly placed on campus for access to classrooms, lecture halls, and auditoria.

That's the continuity...where does the change come in? After the afternoon classes are over, scholars have an opportunity to choose from a variety of activities, workshops, and speakers in the afternoon and early evening. These activities are "challenge by choice," and most days will find more than 75% of scholars choosing to participate in one or more programs.

What does 2023 have in store for programming? Well, we don't want to give too much away, but as in years past, we are assembling a program that has a range of options, from STEM labs to poetry slams to mathematical discussions to arts activities. This year scholars will have the

### MSA TESTIMONIAL

Andrew Mitchell (Lee's Summit, 2016)

"As a 2016 MSA alum, I can confidently say that the Missouri Scholars Academy is three weeks of intellectual engagement unlike any other program in the state. During my time at MSA I was able to conduct college level lab experiments, an experience that solidified my interest in chemistry and that has been a major factor in my decision to pursue a career in research. However, this is not the most special part of MSA. The experience of being with so many other gifted students allowed for meaningful conversations about what it means to be gifted and how to navigate a variety of educational spaces in ways that have helped me make the best of my classes even into college. Through all this I made some amazing friends and still run into classmates from MSA frequently. MSA brings out all the best parts of being a nerd and forms an amazing community that lasts far beyond the end of its program."

opportunity to learn from/with renowned university professors, researchers, authors, astronauts, survivors, artists, ambassadors, and more! A scholar could start their day with a workout, then a major of theoretical mathematics, then lunch discussion about the Arabic language, a minor on modern arts, an afternoon playing with a chess master, early evening with an orchestral harpist, and an evening learning about the chemistry of NASCAR. A full Academy will host over 200 programs, including 75-100 speakers from Mizzou, from Missouri, and indeed from around the world!

Thanks to the Missouri legislature, scholars at the 2023 Academy will be able to attend at no cost...room, board, and activities are fully covered this year. The Academy acknowledges this funding with great gratitude and appreciation to our state legislators! The repercussions of this important funding are many and varied. In years when there was a student activity fee charge because funding was either incomplete or even zeroed out, a large number of prospective scholars were unable to attend (or even to apply) because of the cost. So, on behalf of this year's scholars and Academy faculty and staff, a big thank you goes out to the Missouri Legislature!

Since 2014, the perfect storm of the dropped gifted mandate, potential costs, and counselor turnover in the state has had some negative effects at the Academy. When state funding for the Academy was first put into question and reduced (some years down to \$0), one impact the Academy has experienced is a drop in the number of nominations, even now by as much as 50%. One major objective of the Academy in future years will be to raise the total number of nominations AND the number of districts and counties that nominate scholars. The Academy greatly appreciates YOUR assistance in spreading the word about MSA to your own school districts AND to any others that may benefit from a reminder. The more schools/districts/counties we can get represented at MSA, the better MSA becomes at serving the gifted students of Missouri!

At 39 years old, MSA has welcomed over 12,000 scholars to learn from/with each other and to grow together. There is a magic created when Missouri's gifted students get together and "find their people"...it's a magic that is important AND unique! Many scholars have reported that they would never have the kind of opportunities at their home schools as they do at the Academy, academically, socially or otherwise.

## MSA TESTIMONIAL

Kate Taylor (Pacific, 2018)

"I can say with 100% certainty that Missouri Scholars Academy changed my life. I walked into the Academy a girl who didn't know who she was and left a woman who felt grounded in who she was. MSA let me, and 300 other young, bright students, find a voice without fear of judgment and "inside in the box" thinking that often accompanies high school. That voice stayed with me throughout my remaining time in high school and has followed me to college; it has allowed me to be a leader on campus and know myself and my values more than most people my age. Missouri Scholars Academy challenged me to examine myself and the world around me with an intent to understand and grow, something often not offered in normal schooling."

## MSA *continued from Page 29*

### MSA TESTIMONIAL

Cole Brodeur (Springfield, 2022)

"My experience at MSA has helped me have a vision of what I want my future to look like. Getting a preview of what a college education means and what campus life is like was enlightening. The alternate learning environment at MSA felt more comfortable than ordinary public schooling. I returned motivated to further my education. The unique social environment at MSA gave me a group of friends I will have for the rest of my life."

### MSA TESTIMONIAL

Amaya Gaus (Kirkwood, 2022)

"MSA is surrounded with such a loving atmosphere where scholars see each other's versatile accomplishments and become inspired. Personally, because of MSA, I am interested in becoming more involved with volunteering, ways to take action against social injustices, and even starting a club at school. MSA truly brings out the best in a person and being surrounded by such talent makes them want to be the best version of themselves. Saying MSA was a "life changing experience," is not an exaggeration. As skeptical as I was at first, MSA proved itself by enabling me to make seemingly life long friendships, connections, and interests."

### MSA TESTIMONIAL

Sara Venier (Liberty, 2014)

"The central message of Missouri Scholars Academy is "challenge by choice," which encourages scholars to challenge their current views, try new things, and engage with others they may not normally interact with. I love this message and feel it is a mindset everyone can benefit from."

# Thank You!

## YOUR WORK

*makes*  
a difference

in the **lives** of students, families,  
colleagues and the community.

You are  
**appreciated –**

this week *and* every week!

From all of us in the  
Truman State University Education Department,

**THANK YOU**

FOR **everything** YOU DO.

Teacher Appreciation Week  
May 7 – 13, 2023  
#ThankaMOTeacher

