

GIFTED & TALENTED NEWSLETTER

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Rib Mountain

Elem. Calendar

Elementary Art Cluster
January 15 & 16, 2025

Book Bowl
February 6, 2025

GT Music Experience
TBD

Thank you for taking the time to
read our GT newsletter.

It is important for you to receive
updates on what is happening in
our department.

If you have any suggestions, you
are welcome to share those by
emailing
krpeterson@wausauschools.org.



GT Coordinator's Corner

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year!

I am very honored to have the opportunity to serve in the role as our WSD Gifted and Talented Coordinator. I look forward to getting to know our students and families and you are welcome to reach out to me any time.

This school year started off with our annual Parent Information Night that was held at Rib Mountain on September 26, 2024. Thank you to the families who were able to join us that evening for the informational session, meet and greet with our GT Resource teachers, and door prizes!

In addition, our middle school families were invited to virtual meetings with Mr. Aaron Boller on September 11, 13 & 20, 2024.

As a reminder, you are highly encouraged to reach out to your child's GT Learning Resource Teacher if you are interested in any parent resource books. They are available to check out from our department.

We are looking forward to a great year of working with all of you. You are welcome to reach out to us if you have any questions throughout the school year.

Warm Regards,
Elizabeth Channel, WSD GT Coordinator


Mr. B's Middle School News



First quarter has come to a close, and many wonderful enrichment experiences were enjoyed by many students at both middle schools in each grade level. Students have chosen to go above and beyond by participating in various enrichment opportunities.

The MATHCOUNTS Team has returned, and many students have joined the teams at both middle schools. There's room for more! New members are welcomed to join before November 8th. Contact me for more information.

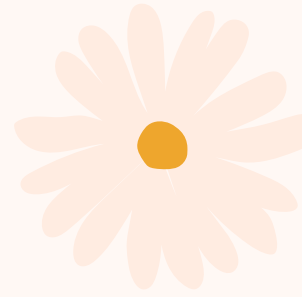
Yours in guiding your child above and beyond,

Aaron Boller ~ WSD Middle School GT Resource Teacher
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Elementary Leadership Conference Summary.



Student Opportunities

Milwaukee Art Museum Art of
Writing Contest

Brick Fest Live
Madison, WI Jan 25 & 26

Marathon Co. Conservation
Speaking and Poster Contest

Mini Music Clinics - UW Madison

"everyone grows at
different rates"



Gifted & Talented Social Emotional Learning Resource

Every year Mr. Boller, our middle school GT teacher, gives students a survey as a tool to gauge their needs and plan programming that addresses them. One of the statements that is frequently endorsed by students is, "I wonder what is expected of me."

So whether it's from lack of experience with academic struggle and learning how to persevere through it, or the expectation (real or perceived) that they should always be able to do things perfectly, the pressure is there. After all, they are "gifted." But what does that even mean? Here are some ideas for talking to your child about their giftedness to help them to understand what is and is not expected of them.

If you have been identified by the school to receive GT services, it is because you have demonstrated through your work and some additional testing that you are capable of high performance in intellectual, creative, artistic, leadership, or specific academic areas. You may need extra services or activities in order to learn to your fullest potential in these areas.

What Is Giftedness?
DAVIDSON INSTITUTE

BYRDSEED

SENG

DAVIDSON INSTITUTE

MENSA FOR KIDS



Does being gifted mean that everything should come easily to me?

No. In fact, you might find that some things that seem easy to others are especially challenging for you. You might be gifted in math, but struggle to organize and communicate your thoughts about the steps you took to solve the problem, or just think that doing so is tedious and pointless. You'll still be expected to do it because it's an important part of expanding your learning and working with others. You might be an advanced reader and love

~~I DON'T
NEED SCHOOL
BECAUSE
I'M A GENIUS~~

read books on topics of your interest, but struggle to get through assigned reading in the classroom or write about the author's perspective. Just like anyone else, or even more-so, gifted kids can struggle with organization skills, managing emotions, thinking flexibly and making friends. Be prepared to study and work hard to learn, especially as you get into more advanced courses.

Does being gifted mean that I am better than others?

Being identified as gifted does mean that certain subjects will likely be easier for you to understand and learn. This is definitely a benefit for many school-related expectations. However, it doesn't make you better than other people. Empathy and human connectedness are valuable social competencies and essential for success in working with others, no matter how intelligent you are in math and reading. So while we can celebrate our giftedness in whatever area(s) we've been identified, it is still important to remember that we all have unique strengths and challenges. The purpose of your participation in the GT program is not to identify you as better than other students, but to be sure that the school is providing you with education that is at the right depth and speed at which you are capable of learning.

Podcasts for Parents of Gifted Kids



Parent Footprint with Dr. Dan



Adventures in Being Gifted Podcast



The Neurodiversity Podcast