

Congratulations!!

Mary Kate Testa

National Board Certified Teacher



Gifted Learning Center Teacher Mary Kate Testa completed her National Board Certification in December. Her Sahuaro GLC students surprised her with balloons at dismissal. National Board Certification is a difficult process and one of the highest honors a teacher can achieve. We feel very lucky to have such experienced and amazing teachers in our gifted program!

January 2024

Upcoming Events

- **January 22, 2024 Gifted Parent Meeting and Parent Classes 6:00-7:30pm.**
- **January 29, 2024 Family Game Night 6:00-7:00pm (Chess, Rubik's Cubes and more!)**
- **February 12, 2024 Gifted Parent Meeting and Parent Classes 6:00-7:30pm.**
- **February 26, 2024 Family Game Night 6:00-7:00pm (Chess, Rubik's Cubes and more!)**

All events: WESD District Office: 4650 W Sweetwater Ave Glendale, AZ 85304

Gifted Students Represent Their Schools at Spelling Bees



Students from each school in WESD had the opportunity to compete in their school spelling bees. Many of the 1st and 2nd place winners are our gifted identified students. They will move on to the WESD District Competition on January 18, 2024 at 10:00 am at the district office.

- Milan Carevic - Cholla Middle School
- Shwe Tun - Sunnyslope
- Angel Wardah - Online Learning Academy
- Erick Ruvalcaba - Cactus Wren
- Cora Von Baar - Lookout Mountain
- Olivia Bruso - Acacia
- Ramon Saldana - Manzanita
- Ryan Alvey - Ironwood
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Time to Show How Talented Gifted Students Are

Spring Family Night on March 7, 2024 will be an "AWARDS Show" to announce the winners of the district GiftED talks. All gifted students have the opportunity to compete in creating a 2-3 minute TED Talk video in their gifted classes or on their own. They will record it and turn it in to their gifted teacher by February 16, 2024. The school winners will compete against others in the district "AWARDS Show!" We are excited to see all the amazing things our gifted students share with us!

GIFTED TALKS

AWARDS NIGHT MARCH 7, 2024
WESD DISTRICT OFFICE 6:30-7:30PM

What do you care about? What are you passionate about?

CREATE A TWO-THREE MINUTE TED TALK VIDEO ABOUT A TOPIC OF YOUR CHOICE!

TIMELINE:

FEB 16, 2024:
SUBMIT THE VIDEO TO YOUR GIFTED TEACHER

FEB 26, 2024:
SCHOOL WINNERS ANNOUNCED AND PROCEED TO DISTRICT COMPETITION (3 WINNERS PER SCHOOL K-2, 3-5, 6-8)

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GIFTED AWARDS PRESENTATION DISTRICT OFFICE
DISTRICT WINNER ANNOUNCED IN K-2, 3-5, AND 6-8 CATEGORIES.

SPECIAL AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN FOR

- BEST SPEAKER
- MOST INFORMATIVE
- BEST SPECIAL EFFECTS/ PRODUCTION
- OVERALL BEST GIFTED TALK

Helpful Hints:

- Watch some TED talks by kids online
- Research your topic
- Write a script and memorize or practice a lot
- Ask for feedback from friend, parents, and

WESD GIFTED PARENT CLASSES

WESD Gifted Parent Classes are held once a month to talk about special topics important to gifted families. You can meet with other parents of gifted children and ask questions.

Monday, January 22, 2024 -
WESD District Office



- Gifted Parent Meeting 6:00-6:30 pm.
- Gifted Parent Class from 6:30-7:30 pm.
- Register using the QR code.
- Childcare is provided for school-age children.

<https://forms.gle/nAJxTV4xyDBir1Ki9>

GLC/ FLEX Self-Contained Gifted Programs

WESD has two self-contained gifted programs for high-ability gifted students. The K-6 program (GLC) is at Sahuaro Elementary and the 7th-8th grade program (FLEX) is at Cholla Middle School.

Gifted students in these programs benefit by being with other gifted students all day long and work at their ability level as opposed to their grade level. Our gifted teachers are certified in the unique academic and social-emotional needs of the gifted.

Applications for the 2024-25 school year will open on February 12, 2024. Please see the district website for more information:
<https://www.wesdschools.org/Page/137>

Eligibility requires three scores:

- CogAT score 95th percentile or higher (preferably verbal or quantitative)
- CogAT score above 90th percentile
- CogAT score above 80th percentile

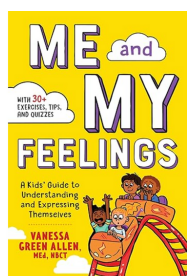


ASU Barrett Summer Scholars Program

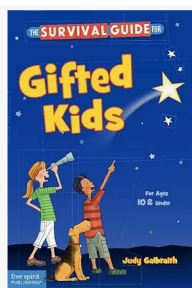
The Barrett Honors College at Arizona State University provides students with the opportunity to experience college firsthand. The program is designed for academically talented and motivated students entering the **8th, 9th, 10th, or 11th grade** in Fall 2024. Barrett Summer Scholars invites students to engage in college-level coursework and participate in a community of peers from across the state. The students spend a week on an ASU campus, taking classes and experiencing college life. Although the program cost is high, many students have attended on full or partial scholarships, so do not let that keep you from applying for this opportunity.

Applications will open online in January. Students must complete an application that includes several parts, including a short essay, as well as provide test scores and a teacher recommendation. Students should consult with their gifted teacher if they need help with the application or copies of scores. [Website \(https://eoss.asu.edu/bss\)](https://eoss.asu.edu/bss)

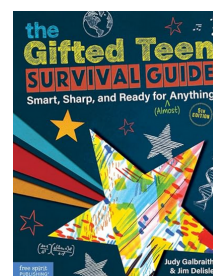
Resources for Gifted Families



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A Kids' Guide to
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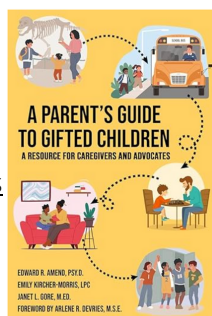


The Survival Guide for
Gifted Kids: For Ages 10
& Under
by Judy Galbraith

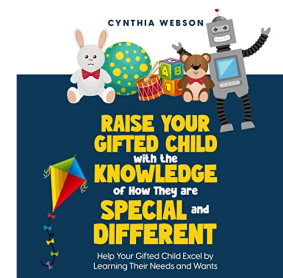


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The Empathic Parent's Guide to
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Parenting Strategies I Learned to
Understand and Nurture My Child's
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Raise Your Gifted Child: With the Knowledge
of How They are Special and Different. Help
Your Gifted Child Excel by Learning Their
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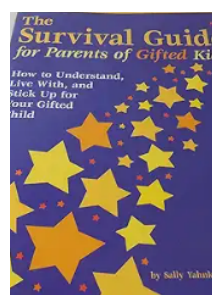
THE EMPATHIC PARENT'S GUIDE TO
RAISING A HIGHLY
SENSITIVE CHILD



Parenting Strategies I Learned to
Understand and Nurture My Child's Gift

FREEDA MEIGHAN

A Parent's Guide to
Gifted Children
by Edward R. Amend and
Emily Kircher-Morris



The Survival Guide for
Parents of Gifted Kids:
How to Understand, Live
With, and Stick Up for
Your Gifted Child
by Sally Yahnke Walker



**Do you have a PreK student you'd
like to test for Gifted?**

We can test WESD siblings and 3-and-4-year-olds registered in Headstart or ECE for gifted abilities. We don't currently have gifted services in PreK, but identification can help with kinder placement and other educational decisions. Please contact Patti Ahlman with questions, or to schedule testing.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN GIFTED?

¿Qué Está Sucediendo en las Clases de Estudiantes Dotados?



Gifted students at Manzanita School explored predators and prey for their Animal Adventures study.



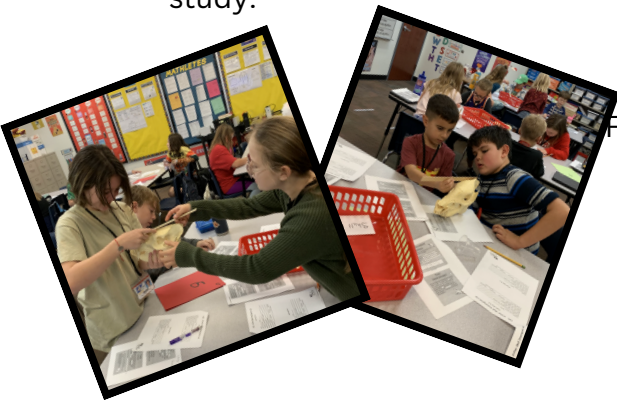
Students at Sunset learned the layers of the ocean in Project Potential.



Students at Chaparral dissected owl pellets as part of their Animal Adventures study.



Students at Chaparral designed and created underground civilizations.

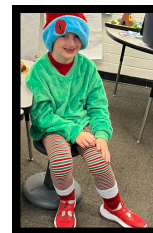


GLC students demonstrated lots of holiday spirit with their dress themed days and a "Candy Cane Olympics."

Lookout Mountain students borrowed a Bone Box from AZ Game & Fish. They studied skull structures such as eye socket size/placement, nasal passages, dentition (teeth), and jawbones. Students measured and analyzed each skull and then predicted to which mammal the skull belonged. They touched animal pelts and observed various features such as foot pads, claws, whiskers, fur, etc.



WESD families with gifted learners came to participate in Monday Family Game Night.



Project Potential students at Sahuaro strategized their way through digital escape rooms.



Sweetwater students used their nonverbal/spatial skills to engineer with Keva Blocks.



Have you joined our WESD Gifted Facebook Page?

Looking for a way to keep up with the latest and greatest in WESD gifted education.

Check out our gifted facebook page!

[WESD Gifted Education Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/WESDGiftedEducation/)

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¡Felicitaciones!

Mary Kate Testa

Maestra Certificada del Consejo Nacional



La Maestra del 'Gifted Learning Center', Mary Kate Testa, completó su Certificación del Consejo Nacional en diciembre. Sus estudiantes del programa GLC de Sahuaró la sorprendieron con globos a la salida. La Certificación del Consejo Nacional es un proceso difícil y uno de los más altos honores que un maestro puede lograr. ¡Nos sentimos muy afortunados de tener maestros tan experimentados y maravillosos en nuestro programa para estudiantes dotados!

January 2024

Próximos Eventos

- 22 de enero, 2024 Reuniones para Padres de Estudiantes Dotados y Clases para Padres 6:00–7:30 p.m.
- 29 de enero, 2024 Noche de Juegos Familiares 6:00-7:00 p.m. (¡Ajedrez, Cubos de Rubik y más!)
- 12 de febrero, 2024 Reuniones para Padres de Estudiantes Dotados y Clases para Padres 6:00–7:30 p.m.
- 26 de febrero, 2024 Noche de Juegos Familiares 6:00-7:00 p.m. (¡Ajedrez, Cubos de Rubik y más!)

Todos los eventos: Oficina de Distrito del WESD: 4650 W Sweetwater Ave Glendale, AZ 85304

Estudiantes Dotados Representan a sus Escuelas en Concursos de Ortografía



Los estudiantes de cada escuela en el WESD tuvieron la oportunidad de competir en los concursos de ortografía de su escuela. Muchos de los ganadores del 1º y 2º lugar son nuestros estudiantes identificados como dotados. Pasarán a la Competencia del Distrito WESD el 18 de enero de 2024 a las 10:00 a.m. en la oficina del distrito.

- Milan Carevic - Cholla Middle School
- Shwe Tun - Sunnyslope
- Angel Wardah - Online Learning Academy
- Erick Ruvalcaba - Cactus Wren
- Cora Von Baar - Lookout Mountain
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Momento de Demostrar Lo Talentosos

que son los Estudiantes Dotados

La Noche Familiar de Primavera, el 7 de marzo de 2024, será un “Show de PREMIOS” para anunciar a los ganadores de las charlas ‘GiftED’ del distrito. Todos los estudiantes dotados tienen la oportunidad de competir en la creación de un vídeo de charla ‘TED’ de 2 a 3 minutos en sus clases de estudiantes dotados o por su cuenta. Lo grabarán y se lo entregarán a su maestro de estudiantes dotados antes del 16 de febrero de 2024. Los ganadores de las escuelas competirán contra otros en el “Show de PREMIOS” del distrito. ¡Estamos emocionados de ver todas las cosas increíbles que nuestros estudiantes dotados comparten con nosotros!

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Helpful Hints:

- Watch some TED talks by kids online
- Research your topic
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- Ask for feedback from friend, parents, and

WESD GIFTED PARENT CLASSES

Las Clases para Padres de Estudiantes Dotados del WESD se llevan a cabo una vez al mes para hablar sobre temas especiales importantes para las familias de estudiantes dotados. Pueden reunirse con otros padres de niños dotados y hacer preguntas. Lunes, 22 de enero de 2024: Reunión para Padres de Estudiantes Dotados en la Oficina del Distrito del WESD de 6:00 a 6:30 p.m. Clases para Padres de Estudiantes Dotados de 6:30 a 7:30 p.m. Inscribáse usando el código QR. Se proporciona Cuidado Infantil para niños en edad escolar.

<https://forms.gle/nAJxTV4xyDBir1Ki9>



GLC/ FLEX Self-Contained Gifted Programs

El WESD tiene dos programas contenidos en sí mismos para estudiantes dotados con altas capacidades. El programa K-6 (GLC) está en la Escuela Sahuaro y el programa de 7º a 8º grado (FLEX) está en la Escuela Intermedia Cholla. Los estudiantes dotados en estos programas se benefician al estar con otros estudiantes dotados durante todo el día y trabajar en su nivel de capacidad en lugar de su nivel de grado. Nuestros maestros de estudiantes dotados están certificados en las necesidades académicas y sociales-emocionales únicas de los estudiantes dotados. Las solicitudes para el año escolar 2024-25 se abrirán el 12 de febrero de 2024. Consulten el sitio web del distrito para obtener más información: <https://www.wesdschools.org/Page/137>

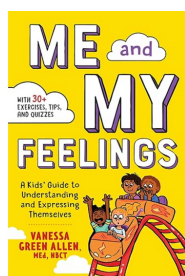
La elegibilidad requiere tres puntajes: · Puntaje CogAT percentil 95 o superior (preferiblemente verbal o cuantitativo) · Puntaje CogAT por encima del percentil 90 · Puntaje CogAT por encima del percentil 80



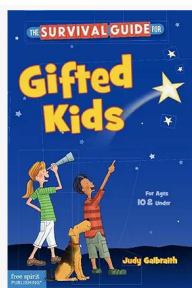
Programa 'Barrett Summer Scholars' de ASU

'Barrett Honors College' de la Universidad Estatal de Arizona brinda a los estudiantes la oportunidad de experimentar la universidad de primera mano. El programa está diseñado para estudiantes motivados y con talento académico que ingresan al octavo, noveno, décimo u undécimo grado en el otoño de 2024. 'Barrett Summer Scholars' invita a los estudiantes a participar en cursos de nivel universitario y participar en una comunidad de compañeros de todo el estado. Los estudiantes pasan una semana en un campus de ASU, tomando clases y experimentando la vida universitaria. Aunque el costo del programa es alto, muchos estudiantes han asistido con becas totales o parciales, así que no permitan que eso les impida solicitar esta oportunidad. Las solicitudes se abrirán en línea en enero. Los estudiantes deben completar una solicitud que incluye varias partes, incluido un ensayo breve, además de proporcionar los resultados de los exámenes y una recomendación del maestro. Los estudiantes deben consultar con su maestro de estudiantes dotados si necesitan ayuda con la solicitud o copias de los puntajes. Sitio web (<https://eoss.asu.edu/bss>)

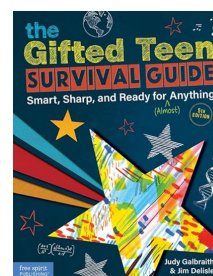
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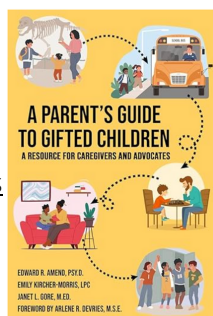


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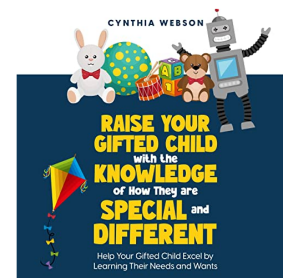


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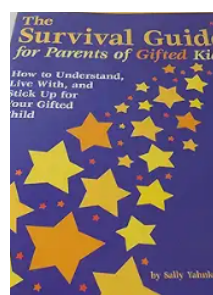
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¿Tiene un estudiante de PreK al que le gustaría hacerle la prueba de Superdotado?

Podemos evaluar a los hermanos de estudiantes en el WESD y a los niños de 3 y 4 años inscritos en Headstart o ECE para detectar habilidades de estudiantes dotados. Actualmente no contamos con servicios para estudiantes dotados en PreK, pero la identificación puede ayudar con la colocación en kindergarten y otras decisiones educativas. Favor de comunicarse con Patti Ahlman si tienen preguntas o para programar pruebas.

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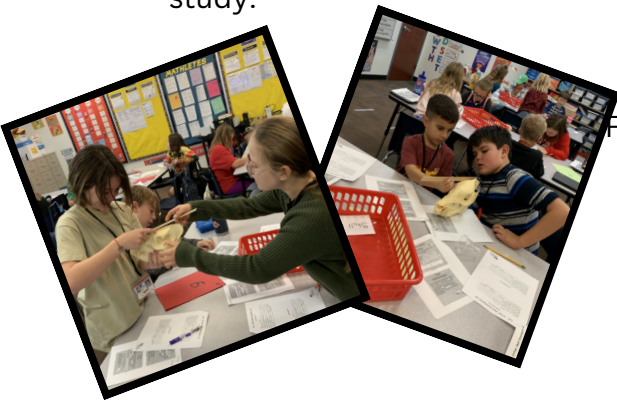
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