

Gifted Child Committee

Chair: Holly Gaut, hollygaut@hotmail.com

Our committee has planned four meetings with the assistance of the Office of Accelerated and Enriched Instruction. All meetings are geared toward GT Liaisons, however all interested persons are invited to attend:

- **October 24th - GT Liaison Fall Training Session** - General GT information regarding acceleration/enrichment opportunities within MCPS. Question and Answer period regarding Gifted Education. Information packets will be provided to all GT Liaisons to take back to their schools.
- **November 29th - Exploring the Writing Curriculum: How MCPS Prepares Students to be Exceptional Writers** – Come and learn the components of the writing curriculum. Are there extensions for advanced writers? What are the expectations regarding writing instruction for students in ES, MS and HS? Does the MCPS curriculum specify expectations regarding length of compositions at different grade levels? Are BCR's part of the writing curriculum?
- **January 24th - Beyond the GT Label: How Teachers Identify Students Who Need Above Grade Level Instruction** - How do teachers determine a students' need for above grade level programming? What assessments are used in reading? In Math? In other subjects? What is MAP-R? What do the assessment scores mean? When is it appropriate to skip grades in order to meet a student's academic needs? Is there ever a point at which acceleration is a bad thing for students?
- **April 24th - Differentiating Instruction: Best Practices in Grouping Strategies & Teacher Preparation** - What does differentiated instruction look like in Reading, Science and Social Studies at each school level? What are grouping strategies MCPS uses in ES and MS? What are the pros and cons of each? Does research support a particular strategy for gifted students? What are some practical strategies teachers can use for students who learn at different rates or bring prior knowledge to the classroom? How are teachers prepared/trained by MCPS to address the needs of gifted students and advanced learners? Is any training required? Does MCPS maintain information on what training each teacher has received?

The Gifted Child Committee has developed a MCCPTA listserv for use by GT Liaisons to inform them of upcoming events or meetings, resources available and other items of interest. To join, PTA GT Liaisons, (PTA GT Contacts) can go directly to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MCCPTAGiftedChildCommittee/> or they may send an email to hollygaut@hotmail.com with a request to join.

This year MCPS is working to revise policy IOA Gifted and Talented Education. Members of the Gifted Child Committee are serving as members of the Accelerated and Enriched Instruction (AEI) Advisory Committee to provide feedback regarding changes to the policy. We will be working to provide periodic updates and information as well as gathering feedback from our local PTAs before any changes are recommended.