

## **Gifted Child Committee**

Chair: Holly Gaut, [hollygaut@hotmail.com](mailto:hollygaut@hotmail.com)

Our committee is held it's February Meeting with over 40 parents in attendance. We were pleased to have Carolyn K, webmaster of Hoagiesgifted.org speak on the topic of causes of underachievement among gifted students.

We have 1 additional meeting scheduled for this year.

- **April 24<sup>th</sup> - 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? Time: 7:30 – 9:00pm Location: Walter Johnson HS Cafeteria.

We have already started gathering meeting ideas for next year. Some of the topics which have been suggested are:

- Roles of the specialists within our schools: How can the math and reading specialists help address the problems of highly able children within our school?
- Math acceleration: What models are available to address the need for acceleration of high ability math students within MCPS? What is curriculum compacting? What factors should be considered when deciding if I should accelerate my child in mathematics?
- Long term enrichment projects: What is available in MCPS? What programs are available outside of MCPS? Information on National History Day, Science Fairs, Destination Imagination, Montgomery College, Robotics Clubs, etc...
- Above Grade Level Reading Programs for K-5 and how they can be implemented in your school. What is Junior Great Books? Jacobs Ladder? William and Mary?
- Preparing for college and college scholarship information  
Information/expert guidance on the best strategy to gain scholarships for academically talented students. Many of the college scholarships are for either the extreme top students with lots of academic accolades already, or, more likely, the athletes. What is a good plan in middle school/high school for being a candidate for scholarships