

# NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION FOR THE GIFTED (NMAG)

## **STILL NEED TO SIGN UP FOR OUR 2017 CONFERENCE?**

Come see the greatest show on gifted!

October 20-21, 2017

New Mexico Highlands

Rio Rancho Center

1700 Grande Blvd SE

#100, Rio Rancho, NM

87124



## **Back to School 2017**

Heading back to school in Fall is not only difficult for teachers, but can even more difficult for our Gifted kiddos. SENG (Supporting Emotional Needs of Gifted) has compiled a list with supplemental readings to help Parents send Gifted kids back to school with more ease.

**A Collection of the Top Ten Parent Hints for Starting the New School Year, compiled by Lori Comallie-Caplan**

### **Teach Children Philosophies of Education by Wenda Sheard**

I suggest that parents discuss with their children the purpose of education. Exposing young children to what great philosophers have thought about education not only teaches children history, philosophy and education, but also helps them to create their own educational goals—goals that may differ significantly from the goals of other children. ([September Back-To-School Suggestions, The SENGvine Newsletter, September 2011](#))

### **Get to Know the Teacher by Arlene DeVries**

Get to know your child's teacher early in the year. One parent sends a letter of introduction to the teacher, which includes a photocopied picture of their family. This parent lists some of the special strengths and interests of the child along with some areas of concern or family information that might affect the child's school performance. This kind of letter might also include a request for a conference with the teacher to discuss in more detail how you and the teacher can work together throughout the year. ([ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR: OFF TO THE RIGHT START! Home and School Report, Parenting for High Potential, undated.](#))

### **Keep a Positive Attitude by Carol Bainbridge**

A positive attitude is important before, during, and after a conference with the teacher. Children can pick up negative attitudes and if a child thinks the parent disapproves of or doesn't respect a teacher, the child will think such an attitude is acceptable, which will just make any existing problems worse and more difficult to resolve. Leave your anger at home since it can make you look irrational and cause the teacher to become defensive, neither of which will help your child. ([Tips for Talking With Your Gifted Child's Teacher, About.com, undated.](#))

### **Know what is available for your Child by Lori Comallie-Caplan**

To ask for the programs and opportunities that will benefit your child the most, you must learn what the school has to offer and be able to explain why particular options will benefit your child. Ask the right questions:

What type of gifted programming is available? (i.e. gifted class, resource room, independent study and/or mentorships) Is grouping available? (i.e. flexible skills and/or cluster grouping) What differentiated instructional strategies are supported in the school? (i.e. curriculum compacting, tiered instruction, acceleration) What extra-curricular activities are available for the gifted? (i.e. Future Problem Solving, Math Olympiads, National History Day)



#### **Support Homework Time for 2E Kids by Linda Neumann**

We must make sure children have the support they need to be successful. That includes providing them with an appropriate workspace, teaching them the study and organizational skills they need, and offering them accommodations where necessary, like extended time or reduced assignments. ([Homework: The Good, The Bad and the Ugly, The SENG Update, November 2007.](#))

#### **Be your child's champion by Karen Isaacson**

Remember that you are the person ultimately responsible for the well-being and education of your child. Nobody else can advocate for your child like you can. You are your child's champion. ([Working with Schools to Meet the Needs of Your Gifted Children](#))

Kathy Jones adds, "Teach your child self-advocacy skills for use at school." (Facebook Post August 23, 2013)

#### **Consider Sports, Not Just Academics by Kathleen Casper**

Year after year, educators debate whether parents should be "wasting their time" taking their children to afterschool sports activities. Some argue that children who are tested show very little academic improvement, if any, from participation in sports. Some say that the social and task commitment skills learned in sports positively impact children's development. And others argue it is good for children to be active for physical health reasons. But very few acknowledge that some children excel in sports because sports is their gifted talent area and that nurturing this interest will bring about success equal to or perhaps even greater than what they could ever achieve in academics. ([Don't Always Choose Academics! Why Sports Participation May Be Just as Important. The SENGvine Newsletter, August/September 2012.](#))

#### **Provide a nurturing environment by Arlene DeVries**

In order to develop to their full potential, the special talents of gifted children must be valued and encouraged both at home and at school. Often, traits that can be annoying to parents and teachers—bossiness, stubbornness, inappropriate humor, perfectionism, continual worry, excessive questioning, resistance to interruptions—can be reframed to become the very characteristics which make them successful as adults—leadership, perseverance, task commitment, curiosity, empathy, high performance standards, and the ability to see humor in life. It is important to guide children in channeling these abilities into productive behaviors rather than thwarting development. ([Appropriate Expectations for the Gifted Child](#), SENGifted.org, Article Archives, Reprinted with permission from the Great Potential Press.)

#### **Stimulate your child's sense of awe and Wonder by Dr. Arthur L. Costa**

Successful people find enjoyment, enthusiasm, and fascination in their work and world. Allow your children free range to explore whatever they are intrigued with—as long as they are experiencing the passion. Invite your children to share their interests—what electrifies and mystifies them. Create a safe home environment, where children feel free to share their fascination, their emotions and their exhilaration. Make it cool to be passionate about something! Share with your child your own fascinations. Allow them to see you enthralled and excited about a problem or discovery and compelled with your own work. ([Developing Your Child's Habits of Success in School, Life and Work](#), Parenting for High Potential, NAGC, March 2002) Lori Lewis adds, "Start a new tradition that is a special time with each child such as learn a new dish that they can learn to cook each time you have it this school year. Find connections to their talents or interests such as the food's origin, the science of cooking it or literary connections." (Facebook Post, August 23, 2013.)

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## **Enrichment Opportunities: NM Academic Competitions**

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One of the easiest ways to provide enrichment opportunities to students, comes through academic competitions. New Mexico hosts several competitions throughout the year in a variety of curricular areas. The board members of the New Mexico Association for the Gifted hope the following links will help students, parents, educators, and program coordinators access information regarding these engaging opportunities. The links below come from our competitions page on the NMAG website. If you would like to suggest additional links for this competition page, please email: [Steve Heil, Publicity Chair](mailto:Steve.Heil@nmag.org)

✓ **Destination Imagination**

<http://imaginm.org>

✓ **Stock Market Game and InvestWrite**

<https://www.stockmarketgame.org>

<http://www.investwrite.org>

✓ **National History Day**

<http://nmhum.org/historyday/>

✓ **English Expo**

<http://www.nmira.org/english-expo.html>

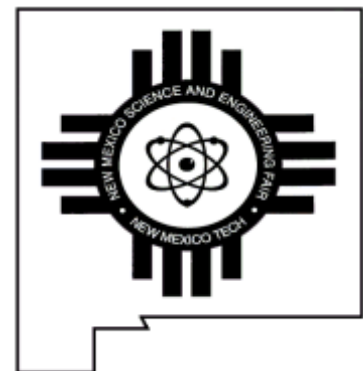
✓ **Mock Trial**

<http://www.civicvalues.org/mock-trial>

✓ **Science Fair and Science Olympiad**

<https://www.nmact.org/activities/science-fair/>

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY 2018



### **English Expo XXIV**



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## **Technical Assistance Manual Reboot: Be a part of change for the better**

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Have you worked with the "Gifted Education in NM: Technical Assistance Manual"? What are issues you see with the technical manual? Any suggestions, things you have struggled with? areas for clarification?

NMAG is collaborating with the Public Education Department to update the Technical Assistance Manual.

This is a great opportunity for both NMAG and Gifted Educators in New Mexico. We have had a few brainstorming sessions as to how we want to complete this process. To begin with, we would like to identify educators in New Mexico who have specific knowledge on the various sections of the TAM. Once we establish these sub-committees, then we will begin the work of reviewing, assessing and editing these sections. We hope to gather a list of collaborators around our October conference so that we have these committees formed by the end of November. Then, these sub-committees would meet in earnest (either face to face or through other online meeting software) between December and March. These sub-committees would then have rough drafts of their revised chapters by April so each committee can proofread and approve chapters over the summer. Our overall goal is to have a final draft ready for the PED to review by August of 2018.

If you have suggestions or comments regarding the Gifted Education Manual, email us at [nmgifted@gmail.com](mailto:nmgifted@gmail.com) with "TAM" in the subject line.

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## ***Southcentral Affiliate Report***

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Our Southcentral affiliate has been meeting about Gifted education since their inception. They held their first board meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup> headed by their new president Andres Melendez from the Gadsden ISD. They have begun to complete the paperwork necessary to earn their -5019(c)(3) non-profit status. Additionally, they spent time developing their mission and affiliate bylaws. Though they started with the idea of focusing on their own area, they have found that their reach and advocacy is going to stretch through the southcentral region of the state. Though this is larger than they had originally intended, they are excited about the opportunities of so much activity from gifted educators, parents and sponsors around the south. They hope to hold membership meetings in all three represented regions of the Southcentral affiliate region. Their next meeting will be held on October 12<sup>th</sup> where they hope to focus more on how they hope to help with the technical assistance manual review, community involvement and working with the FTAP. Additionally, they will have representatives hosting a breakout session during the state NMAG conference October 21-22.

### **Southcentral Affiliate Board Members:**

**President- Andres Melendez Gadsden ISD**

**Board Member- Maryann Clark Gadsden ISD**

**President Elect- Dr. Bryan McCuller Las Cruces PS**

**Board Member- Amy Rydecki Las Cruces PS**

**Treasurer- Emilia Linley Las Cruces PS**

**-Publicity Chair-Lisa E. McCuller**

**Recording Secretary- Lynne Hutchison Deming PS**

**-Membership Chair-Christina Melendez**

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## Get Ready for NMAG's

# 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Gifted Institute

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**We are in the home stretch!**

The conference is just around the corner and NMAG is ready for New Mexico's teachers, administrators and parents. Are you interested in learning about and advocating for gifted education? We have our schedule and presenters in place. Our keynote speaker this year will be [Dr. Jaime A. Castellano](#), one of the nation's leading authorities on the identification, assessment, recruitment, and retention of low-income, culturally and linguistically different gifted students. Additionally, our break-out sessions will include topics such as Destination Imagination, Mindfulness, STEM, Gifted 101, Gifted teaching strategies, research on the experience and perspectives of mothers raising gifted children, college prep and Gamification.

[Register online](#). Just \$150 for non-members or \$135 for current members. Pay by check, purchase order, credit or debit card, or PayPal account. [Purchase a vendor table](#) for \$20 to promote your related product or service.

## Official Host Hotel

Our official host hotel is the [Inn at Rio Rancho](#), located at [1465 Rio Rancho Blvd SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124](#). Phone: [505-892-1700](#). Reserve with the promo code "New Mexico Association of the Gifted" to receive the discounted room rate of \$59. Please do not make reservations online. Call the hotel directly and use the promo code "New Mexico Association of the Gifted" to receive the discounted room rate.



Thanks to our generous sponsor, Turbo Threads, of Rio Rancho.  
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