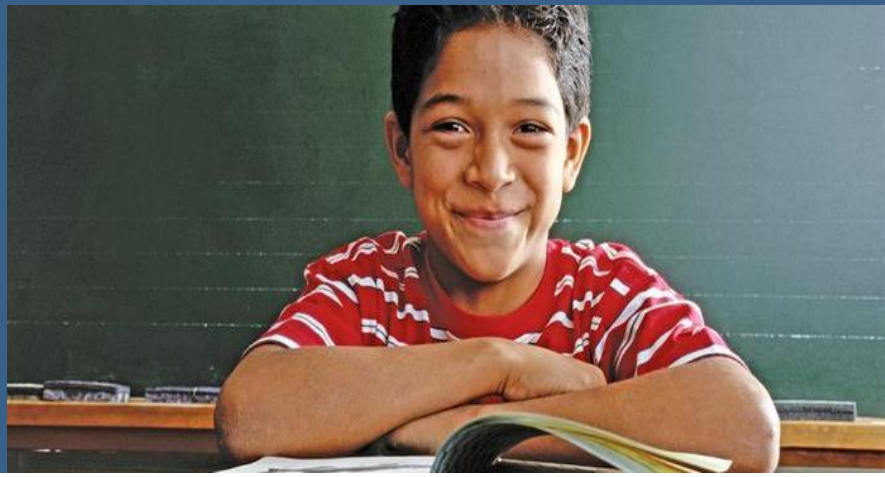


New Mexico Association for the Gifted Spotlight on Reading

Spring 2020



NEXT STEPS IN GIFTED EDUCATION IN NEW MEXICO

The New Mexico Public Education Department and New Mexico Association for the Gifted and its affiliates (South Central and Four Corners) invite you to take part in a focused work group to determine what the “Next Steps” are in the education of our gifted students in New Mexico. We are looking for parents, teachers, administrators and other professionals working with our gifted students to come together and discuss and make recommendations on:

- 1) identification and representation,
- 2) program design and service delivery, and
- 3) curriculum and instruction for the gifted students in New Mexico.

The last regional workshop is in Gadsden Saturday, April 18, from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. The specific location address will be emailed to registered participants.

Registered participants will receive prerequisite peer reviewed research or policy, or policy documents to guide discussions. Recommendations from the three regional meetings will be synthesized and shared with all participants. Final recommendations will guide the NM-PED and NMAG and its affiliates as to “Next Steps” in meeting the needs and improving outcomes for our students who are gifted.

Participation will be limited to 40 people per session.

[Click here to register for the NMPED Gifted Education Focus Discussions](#)

Why Books Matter for Gifted Children

From an NMAG Webinar presented by Chris Vian February 2020

The English classroom can be a source of great comfort for gifted students, but it can also be a place of conflict as gifted students seek out books that interest them but might deal with subject matter that adults find to be above their ability to comprehend. The webinar discussed how to use books as a means of engaging gifted students in subject matters beyond the English classroom, how to deal with controversial topics that are in higher reading level books, and ways that both teachers and parents can use books to not only engage with their gifted students but also create meaningful moments that matter to the students.

Chris Vian serves as President Elect for New Mexico Association for the Gifted. He received his bachelor’s in Communication in 2010 and graduated with his master’s in English in December 2014. He has worked in the education field since 2005. He received a teaching assistantship from the University of Central Oklahoma for the 2013-2014 school year, where he was responsible for teaching a total of four sections of Freshmen Composition and Composition and Research. Following his time as a graduate assistant, he gained an adjunct professorship. He is currently a middle school ELA and Gifted teacher at Chief Manuelito Middle School in Gallup, NM.



Choosing books for the Gifted Reader

Characteristics to Look For:

1. High level of language and vocabulary.
2. Have pronunciation guides.
3. Utilize the full array of literary devices.
4. Use descriptive words that stimulate strong visual images.
5. Authors who delight in the use of language and the expression of nuances.
6. Language patterns and vocabularies from other times and places.
7. The structure of the book puts the mind to work.
8. Setting evokes an experience of other lifestyles.
9. Unresolved problems are presented, and the reader must make some conclusions.

Halsted (2009), [Some of My Best Friends Are Books: Guiding Gifted Readers...](#)

Websites with book lists for gifted readers:

American Library Association – Best Books for Young Adults <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists/bbya>

Byrdseed <https://www.byrdseed.com/recommended-books-in-the-900-1000-lexile-range/>

Children’s Literature Classics - <http://childliterature.net/childlit/index.html>

Davidson Institute - <http://www.davidsongifted.org/search-database/topic/105273/entrytype/2>

GT-World - <https://vcbconsulting.com/gtworld/gtbook.htm>

Hoagies’ Gifted: Reading List http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/reading_lists.htm

John Hopkin’s Center for Talented Youth - <https://cty.jhu.edu/resources/cty-reading-list.html>

Mensa for Kids - <https://www.mensaforkids.org/achieve/excellence-in-reading/>

Newbery Medal Winners, 1922 – Present

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newberymedal/newberyhonors/newberymedal.cfm>

Renzulli Center for Creativity - <https://gifted.uconn.edu/semr-booklist/#>

University of Connecticut suggested Booklists on the Web

<http://www.gifted.uconn.edu/SEMR/booklist%20index2.html>

CREATING MORE ADVOCATES THROUGH PANGS

Pangs are defined as sudden feelings of mental or emotional distress or longing. This describes what it feels like as a parent of a gifted student when they are not receiving appropriate and equitable services. A new initiative for New Mexico Association for the Gifted is the creation of the Parent Advocacy Network for Gifted Students or PANGS. This is a free service for parents to assist them with information to appropriately advocate for excellence and equity of service for their gifted child/ren. We will be offering Facebook Live events, webinars, conference sessions and email blasts to keep the parents of our gifted up to date about advocating for their gifted child. You do not have to be a member of NMAG to join PANGS. Follow this link <https://forms.gle/EiRK18joU7QBp1Rq9> or scan the QR code to join. Please share this information with other parents of gifted children.

