

GIFTED EDUCATION NEWS

January 2016, Gifted Education Coordinators and Communities

Featured Article Resource:

LOST IN TRANSLATION: FROM GIFTED EDUCATION IN MANDARIN TO UNDERSTANDING GIFTEDNESS

By Qiao Li, November 2015, Institute for Educational Advancement

One of the first assignments I received upon joining the IEA staff was to provide a Chinese translation for our program flyers. Being a native speaker, naturally I thought it wouldn't take more than a few hours, but when I started looking on the Chinese search engine, Baidu, I realized I had underestimated the challenge.

One of the top results was "genius education," which I hesitated to transcribe. Digging further, I found that few scholarly writings in Chinese focused on the needs of gifted education.

Stumbling upon a blogger's post, the writer devoted the entire post to praise the special characteristics of giftedness: gifted students have impressive memory, savvy sense of humor, and unbounded intellectual energy; they are naturally mature, creative, compassionate, and empathetic. They kind of sound like... geniuses.

While all of these qualities are true for some gifted kids, it is not true for all. It is also alarming that there is a void in information when it comes to the needs of gifted youth.

Emotions are the heart and soul of a gifted child. The intellectual, emotional, social, spiritual, and physical aspects of the child make up the well-being of the whole child and lead to a balanced life.

When it comes to development, one characteristic to describe gifted children is asynchronous, or uneven. While their minds are often ahead of their physical growth, their cognitive and social-emotional functions can develop at different paces.

To further debunk myths, gifted children are not always high achieving...

For the rest of the article, see:

<http://educationaladvancement.org/lost-in-translation/>

Upcoming event:

FDOE Gifted Webinar:

February 2, 2 pm

Dr. George Betts, president of the National Association for Gifted Children, will join us to discuss the social emotional development of the gifted.

For info on how to join the webinars, email Kathleen.Casper@fldoe.org



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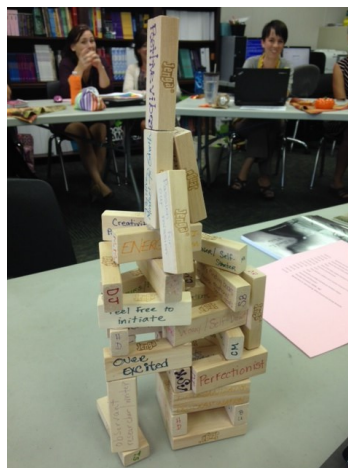
Highlights from the

Districts:

St. Johns County Schools have Gifted Consultants in Every School

St. Johns County Schools' new model for gifted services allows gifted consultants from across the district to meet with students and educators at every one of their schools, including kindergarten through 12th grade, and to provide extensive gifted support services. The model looks different in different school settings, as different schools have different needs. The gifted education consultant teachers are currently doing some of the following things in the classes and across the school settings (each teacher does a mix of these things):

- working with self-contained and blended classes,
- co-teaching with teachers, consulting with teachers to create lesson plans, working with teachers on gifted characteristics and needs and behavior concerns,
- working with parents and advisory teams,
- providing lunch bunches for small student groups to reach specific social-emotional needs,
- providing gifted resources in newsletters and "gifted minutes" in emails to staff/administrators,
- teaching pull-out gifted program classes,
- creating content-integration units, STEM science lesson labs,
- providing push-in support for special education classes, music integration within curriculum areas,
- helping with teacher meetings including Planned Learning Community (PLC) leadership,
- creating gifted education plans (EPs) and maintaining them,
- screening students for gifted evaluation,
- referring students for evaluation,
- teaching endorsement classes
- creating additional professional development for teachers/staff,
- providing hallway and duty support where they can work on students' social-emotional issues,
- working with IB program teachers to help high achieving and underachieving gifted students succeed,
- working on bullying issues and partnering with counselors to support student needs,
- case managing all gifted students in some schools,
- working as the liaison between parents and teachers,
- helping with 504 plan accommodations,
- observing teachers and students to support them,
- helping with crisis management including any emergency situations,
- checking files for information to support the students,
- helping with flipped classroom technology issues, providing career and college preparation assistance,
- co-sponsoring clubs,
- creating forms,
- helping with gifted students who transfer into the district,
- helping with safety plans,
- assisting the exceptional student education department with twice exceptional student issues,
- and more!



St Johns County Schools' gifted education teaching team created this tower of blocks that they use to remind them of gifted characteristics, their own personalities and their goals to serve their students to their best abilities.