



# GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

Winter 2011  
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School District of Waukesha, 222 Maple Avenue, Waukesha, WI 53186

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## Program News

By Ben Hunsanger

Happy New Year. Here's what's been happening with the program since the last newsletter.

I've met with all the Advocates, K-5 and 6-8, in our first semester cluster meetings during the first week back from winter break. The Advocate's comfort level with their role has risen during this third year of the program's Advocacy model. Having a contact person in the buildings has helped improve communication with parents and teachers of GT students. Advocates continue to network to share opportunities that are available at each site with the intent of having more opportunities available at all buildings. Look for differentiation forms for your elementary child at the end of second trimester, mid March.

Second quarter seminars at the middle schools have been completed. The seventh grade topic was learning styles and the eighth grade topic was careers. The intent of the seminars is to give students the opportunity to interact with their peers while doing activities related to the seminar topic.

At the high schools, during first and second quarter office hours, a number of students at each building met with me. A sampling of some of the questions students had was college selection, course scheduling and the ACT.

### Looking Ahead...

Teachers and parents may continue to nominate students for the program until March 11<sup>th</sup>.

February marks the transitional review process for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and April for 8<sup>th</sup> graders. During the transitional review classroom teachers are asked to consider the student's gifted area(s) of identification and level(s) of programming and to provide input as to whether gifted programming is needed at the next grade level. Parents are also involved. Parent questionnaires will be sent home with your child at the elementary level and via webnotes for students at the middle school level. 8<sup>th</sup> grade students also complete a survey.

Newsletters are posted on the GT website the beginning of Nov., end of Jan., end of March and beginning of June.

## Winter P.A.G.E. Event

### Opportunity Fair

Saturday, Jan. 29, 2011  
10am - 2pm

Greenfield High School, main foyer  
4800 S. 60<sup>th</sup> St.  
Greenfield, WI  
More info on website

## GT and RtI

The District is in the process of assessing and restructuring the Response to Intervention plan. Here are a couple links to provide you with more info. The first link is from the Dept. of Public Instruction. It explains RtI and the connection to Gifted & Talented.

<http://dpi.wi.gov/cal/gifted.html>

This second link is a news article with more info.

[http://www.beloitdailynews.com/articles/2011/01/17/news/local\\_news/news1705.txt](http://www.beloitdailynews.com/articles/2011/01/17/news/local_news/news1705.txt)

RtI is for all children and all educators and holds promise for our GT students in assisting to provide challenging curriculum that they thrive on.

## GT Parent Advisory Board

By Becky Cooper

The GT Parent Advisory Board invites you to join us at our quarterly meetings. This is a great way to hear from GT advocates throughout the district about what enrichment opportunities are available, brainstorm with other parents, ask questions, and learn about Gifted and Talented issues and activities at regional, state and national levels. Parent involvement is critical to ensuring appropriate instruction and programming for our children, and we're always thrilled to see new faces.

Meetings are held in rooms 213-215 of the Lindholm Building from 6:00-7:30pm. Remaining meetings for this year are February 22 and May 24. For more information, please contact Becky Cooper at 262-391-2705 or [racooper@wi.rr.com](mailto:racooper@wi.rr.com)

## Dates for 2010-2011

Link for GT Advocates K-8 2010-2011

<http://www.waukesha.k12.wi.us/portals/0/GT%20Advocates%2010-11%20K-8.pdf>

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### GT Parent Advisory Board Meetings

February 22, 6:00 – 7:30 PM

May 24, 6:00 – 7:30 PM

At the Lindholm Building, Rooms 213-215

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### Middle School Seminars

#### **Butler**

Tuesday, March 15

Tuesday, May 17

#### **Central**

Wednesday, March 16

Wednesday, May 18

#### **Horning**

Thursday, March 17

Thursday, May 12

#### **WSA Saratoga**

Friday, March 18

Friday, May 13

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### High School Office Hours

#### **North**

Tuesday, January 25

Tuesday, March 22

Tuesday, May 24

#### **South**

Wednesday, January 26

Wednesday, March 23

Wednesday, May 25

#### **West**

Thursday, January 27

Thursday, March 24

Thursday, May 19