



## Welcome to the 37th Annual MT AGATE Conference

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Registration in the lobby

### Schedule for Thursday, March 2, 2017

7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Conference Registration in the Atrium

7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Vendors Available in the Atrium

*T--teacher, A--administrator, GT--gifted specialist, CS--college students,  
P--parents; C--counselor; PP--paraprofessional; O--other*

**8:00 - 10:00 Opening Session and Keynote Address**

### **KEYNOTE - Ginger Lewman - Learners, Makers and Doers**

Parlors B&C - T, A, GT, CS, P, C, PP

The time has passed for getting kids ready for either the college track or the career track. That binary view of the world is no longer a complete picture. Instead let's envision and build a world where all kids are learners, makers, and doers all day, every day. The problems of the world are not going to solve themselves and it's the everyday work we ask kids to do that will make all the difference!

**10:00 - 10:30 BREAK**

*Purchase tickets for baskets! Visit the Vendors! Network with Colleagues!*

**10:30 - 12:00 THURSDAY MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

### **Twitter, Pinterest, Instagram: Social Media in the Classroom**

*Ginger Lewman* - Parlors B&C - T, A, GT, CS, P, C, PP

Join Ginger for a highly active and engaging session that will highlight both the positive and cautionary realities of using social media for learning. First, we'll learn — and practice — the basics of Twitter. Are you a newbie? That's ok! We have you covered. Maybe you have a Twitter account you started once a few years back, then got busy and accidentally let it stand alone like an abandoned orphan on a rainy street. Then this is for you too! We'll reignite our Why as we refocus on the benefits of Twitter, then look deeper into other tools to see how they too can support our (and our students') learning. Finally, Ginger will spend some time exposing us to "dark apps," or those apps that allow our kids to connect with other anonymously. We'll peek into that world and quickly learn what is happening and how we can shed light into those dark corners.

10:30 - 12:00

## **Inspire! Montana: Paving the way for emerging talent and leadership**

*Gayle Roege PhD* - Parlor A - T, A, G

*Category: Social and Emotional Needs, Curriculum, Differentiation, Identification, Technology, Parenting, Other* Best for all grade levels

Inspire! offers a disruptive opportunity to lessen the burden placed on schools for the education of our gifted youth, by expanding gifted and talented services beyond the school walls through active community participation. The Inspire! vision is to help all youth--even in financially-challenged communities--to explore their passions, develop their talents, and become contributing members of a well-prepared citizenry--resulting in a flourishing and resilient Montana of the future.

The Inspire! Mission:

- Provide "place-based" relevant experiences through community collaboration
- Develop process curriculum based on Da Vinci Principles
- Bridge K-12 and higher education (including VoTech Ed);
- Establish state-wide mentorship/internship network
- Build awareness of need for talent development via flexible life pathways.

\*\*Session will provide links to open-source curriculum for K-12 from the Purdue EPICS program and resources for MIT InvenTeam grant opportunities for in-school or after-school innovation/invention projects.

## **Methods of Classroom Differentiation that Engage Rigorous Student Thinking, Empowerment & Positive Social & Emotional Awareness**

*Karlina Popwell & Diane Fowler, M. Ed* - Parlor D - T, A, GT, CS, P

*Category: Differentiation* Best for upper elementary - high school

Gifted students require regular opportunities to become engaged with learning activities that require more depth and complexity. The first part of this workshop will provide tools and resources to help teachers incorporate depth and complexity into curriculum content to provide extended thinking and rigor best matching gifted student needs. The second part of this workshop will share insight into how these tools may be applied to student-driven exploration of content through 1) individual or group work, 2) question development, and 3) skill/project-design study. These methods ultimately empower gifted students to learn new content, struggle and persist in the learning process, feel motivated and engaged, and discover more about themselves while building a trusting relationship with you. Get ready to feel jazzed!

## **Serving Montana's High Ability/High Potential Students**

*Julia Cruse, OPI Professional Learning Specialist* - Jefferson - T, A, GT

*Category: Differentiation, Identification,*

The guide provides resources at your fingertips for program planning and renewal, services to students, and aligning GT programs with Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS). The guide is free on the OPI GT web page at: [http://opi.mt.gov/programs/Gifted\\_AP/Index.html](http://opi.mt.gov/programs/Gifted_AP/Index.html).

**12:00 - 1:00**

**Buffet LUNCH in the Atrium**

**1:00- 4:00 THURSDAY AFTERNOON HALF-DAY SESSION**

**Teaching High Ability Kids in Today's Mixed Ability Classrooms**

*Ginger Lewman* - Parlors B&C T, A, GT, CS, P, C, PP

Participants will learn about some of the unique characteristics and needs of high-ability students and how we, as busy teachers, can maximize their creative and cognitive potential for full engagement in our multi-leveled classrooms. Practical suggestions for grouping, independent projects, as well as compelling strategies involving technology, entrepreneurship, and service learning.

**1:00 - 2:00 THURSDAY AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**Gifted from the Get-Go: Meeting the Needs of Young Gifted Learners**

*Estee Aiken, EdD* - Parlor D T, A, GT, CS, P

*Category:* Social and Emotional Needs, Curriculum, Differentiation, Identification, Parenting - Best for preschool & early elementary

Our smallest gifted learners can have some of the biggest challenges. Why does this happen? What can be done? This session will explore best practices in early childhood education AND gifted education in order to see how they support each other and how understanding both can best support our young gifted children.

**Why Accelerate? Empowering Gifted Kids with Educational Equity**

*Dr. Amy Rushneck* - MT Boardroom - T, A, GT, CS, P, C, PP

*Category:* Social and Emotional Needs, Curriculum, Differentiation, Other - Best for all grades

Many people believe that "acceleration" just means grade-skipping, with arguments that the socioemotional health of young, gifted learners may be at risk with these advanced learning options. Literature suggests otherwise, and study after study supports not only the academic equity that many diverse acceleration options provide gifted kids, but the necessity of acceleration models to socioemotional health, fully endorsed by groups such as SENG and NAGC. Come learn more about above-level testing, accelerated options within the classroom setting, and summer acceleration programs that best empower gifted kids to take off the brakes.

**Technology for the Gifted Class**

*Holly Kincaid* - Glacier/Yellowstone - T, A, GT, CS, P

*Category:* Differentiation, Technology - Best for all grades

Teaching gifted and high-ability learners requires us to be creative and provide meaningful learning experiences. In this presentation, I will share how I integrate technology to challenge gifted learners both inside and outside of the classroom. Educators will have a variety of tools that can be used immediately to make learning meaningful for gifted and high ability students.

**Finding the Perfect Fit**

*Darla Williams* - Madison - T, P, GT

*Category:* Differentiation-Best for Elementary and Middle School

Meeting the needs of gifted students in the classroom creates the challenge of finding appropriate material that fits both their academic level and their age. Thankfully, technology has taken the worry and the time out of finding that perfect fit for all of your students. Let's take a look at amazing some tools like Frontier, Common Lit, and Read Works Digital. Other engaging tech tools will also be shared, time permitting. Bring your own device to explore and bookmark sites to start using with your students as soon as your get back to school!

### **Planning, Implementing and Revising Programs for High Ability/High Potential Students**

*Michael Hall, OPI GT Specialist; Julia Cruse, OPI Professional Learning Specialist, Daisy Carlsmith, Director of the Western Montana Professional Learning Collaborative and Dianne Fowler, GT Consultant, Southwest Montana School Services (SWMSS); Ruth Carlstrom, GT consultant, Montana North Central Education Service Region; Kathy Grewell, GT consultant, Montana Regional Education Services Area III - [Jefferson](#)*

Come and discover the resources, structures and personal experiences involved in keeping your program aligned to student needs. The presenting team will provide insights to the process as well as data from 50+ programs across the state.

**2:00 – 2:30 p.m. BREAK**

*Purchase tickets for baskets!*

*Visit the Vendors!*

*Network with Colleagues!*

**2:30 - 4:00 p.m.**

**THURSDAY BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

#### **Needle in a Haystack: Bringing Better Search to Your Classroom to Advance Critical Thinking... and Democracy**

*Jason Neiffer - [Parlor A-T](#), A, GT, CS*

*Category: Curriculum, Differentiation, Technology [Best for all grades](#)*

The recent presidential election uncovered a real issue that has been hiding under the surface of our fast-paced technology revolution: unprecedented access to consuming and publishing information has left media consumers drowning in information, much of it from dubious sources. With a 2016 Stanford University study confirming that our students are specifically struggling, classroom teachers need to draw better lines with students before we set them free to explore with Google, Bing or YouTube. A recent Time magazine article argues that millennials, known for their technological prowess, are struggling in higher education and the workplace (“college and career ready,” anyone?) because they lack the basic technology skills required to be successful in a fast-paced environment. One of those skills? Searching the Internet. One study of college students reports that over 2/3s of students lack the skill to perform an effective search of Google. This session will tackle that problem: what search skills can we give students so that they are prepared for what’s ahead? Bring your own device so we can practice independently and together!

#### **Stealing Nutella, Revamping the Cereal Aisle, and Circling the Globe -- What in the world does all this have to do with mathematics?**

*Bonnie Spence - [Parlor D](#) - T, A, GT, CS*

*Category: Differentiation - [Best for upper elementary & middle school](#)*

What do *The Great Nutella Heist*, *The Cereal Box Project*, and *I Bet You Didn't Know Facts* all have in common? These three mathematics projects for upper elementary and middle school students encourage learners to delve into mathematics at their own level of challenge. Come learn how as a teacher you can use any of these projects with students at multiple different levels of understanding. Students are able to make their own challenges as they explore measurement, geometry, and more in several projects that encourage students to create and solve problems through real world comparisons. Session will include samples of student work and tips of how to manage this type of project in the classroom.

### **Introduction to Gifted & Talented**

**AGATE Board Members** - MT Boardroom - T, A, GT, CS, C, P, PP

**Category:** *General information, Social & Emotional Needs, Parenting* Best for all

Are you new to the world of gifted education? Come & hear a brief overview of definitions, state law, social & emotional needs, perfectionism, underachievement, over-excitabilities, 2E (twice exceptional), & creativity. Questions are welcomed & encouraged!

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**7:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

### **An Evening with the Experts**

Round table discussion with Ginger Lewman and State Gifted Experts  
and

### **Self-Advocacy and Your Education-A Session for Students**

*Tamara Fisher*, Gifted Education Coordinator, Polson School District

**FREE** sessions for parents, students and other interested individuals.

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## **Schedule for Friday, March 3, 2017**

7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Conference Registration in the Atrium

7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Vendors Available in the Atrium

**8:00 - 10:00 a.m. Opening Session and Keynote Address**

### **KEYNOTE - Insights Inspired by Gifted Students' Life Stories**

**Dr. Thomas Hebert**

Parlors B&C

Educators remain dedicated to nurturing the growth and development of the gifted child. In doing so they attend to the social and emotional needs of their students. This presentation explores the experiences of several noteworthy students who offer insights on the social and emotional issues they encountered and supportive adults who provided guidance. By listening to the voices of these gifted students teachers recognize their influential roles and reflect on significant ways to provide support for the young people they teach.

**10:00 - 10:30 BREAK**

*Last chance to purchase raffle tickets!*

**10:30 - 12:00 FRIDAY BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

### **Educators Supporting the Social and Emotional Development of Gifted Students**

*Dr. Thomas Hebert* Parlors B&C

Are you worried that young people in this wired world may be missing out on important psychosocial skills? This workshop is designed to support you as you search for ways to address the social and emotional development of your students. Following an overview of the social and emotional characteristics of gifted students, this interactive session presents a rich menu of curricular strategies that will assist you in creating classroom environments that are supportive of healthy psychosocial development. These strategies include non-threatening and enjoyable activities designed to create a climate of positive support, enhance self-awareness in your students, celebrate their creativity, and guide them in their search for identity as gifted and talented students.

### **Methods of Classroom Differentiation that Engage Rigorous Student Thinking, Empowerment & Positive Social & Emotional Awareness**

*Karlina Popwell & Diane Fowler, M. Ed* - Parlor D - T, A, GT, CS, P

*Category: Differentiation* Best for upper elementary - high school

Gifted students require regular opportunities to become engaged with learning activities that require more depth and complexity. The first part of this workshop will provide tools and resources to help teachers incorporate depth and complexity into curriculum content to provide extended thinking and rigor best matching gifted student needs. The second part of this workshop will share insight into how these tools may be applied to student-driven exploration of content through 1) individual or group work, 2) question development, and 3) skill/project-design study. These methods ultimately empower

gifted students to learn new content, struggle and persist in the learning process, feel motivated and engaged, and discover more about themselves while building a trusting relationship with you. Get ready to feel jazzed!

**Words! Words! Words! Active Learning and Engaging Exercises That Motivate and Challenge**

*Ann Ellsworth, PhD - Madison - T, GT*

*Category: Curriculum Best for elementary & middle school*

This presentation will introduce participants to activities that focus on vocabulary development and instructional strategies for their implementation. With these activities, the teacher serves as a facilitator in a learner-centered environment where multiple paths to discovery are celebrated. A handout will be provided that describes thoughtful literacy activities that can be used on Monday.

**EdReady Montana: Helping Students Succeed in Math from Fifth Grade Through Calculus**

*Jaime Clark Middleton - Jefferson - T, A, GT, CS, P*

*Category: Curriculum, Differentiation, Technology Best for upper elementary - high school*

EdReady Montana is a free, online, math support program that identifies knowledge gaps and builds a customized learning path for individual students. EdReady Montana provides students with high-quality, vetted, diverse learning tools that cater to many learning types. EdReady is being used in schools around the state and nation to help students succeed in mathematics. Goals and resources have been created that align with Montana state standards. Attendees will be able to see the EdReady program in detail and obtain sandbox accounts to investigate the resources, learning modules and available reports. If participants would like a test account prior to the training, please email [jaime.middleton@montanadigitalacademy.org](mailto:jaime.middleton@montanadigitalacademy.org). Bring your laptop if you have one!

**Gifted Kids in Preschool and the Primary Grades**

*Tamara Fisher M.A. - Glacier/Yellowstone*

*Category: Social and Emotional Needs, Identification, Parenting, Other T, A, P, GT, CS*

How early can and should gifted students be identified? What traits are characteristic of the young gifted? What services and opportunities do gifted learners at this age need? These and other topics regarding our youngest gifted will be explored.

**12:00 - 1:00**

***LUNCH Buffet in the Atrium***

*Raffle Winners Announced*

**1:00 - 2:00**

***FRIDAY BREAKOUT SESSIONS***

**Biography 101 for Gifted Teens:  
Supporting Social and Emotional Development**

*Dr. Thomas Hebert Parlors B&C*

What do Tony Hawk, Sonia Sotomayor and Misty Copeland have to offer your students? In your work with gifted teenagers you can support their social and emotional development through biographies. The inspirational life stories of men and women of achievement deliver powerful messages to gifted middle and high school students. In this interactive session, we will examine how to use biographical materials

to address complex issues such as peer group expectations, underachievement, multipotentiality, and the development of resilience. You will also enjoy sample lessons and a menu of recommended biographies.

**Enriching Education with Escape Games Part 1:  
A New Avenue for Team Building and Creative Problem Solving**

*Ralph and Jaime Walters - Parlor A - T, A, GT, P, CS*

*Category: Other Best for all grade levels*

Escape games, the newest trend in experiential entertainment, are a fun and exciting learning tool to develop the 6 C's in the classroom.

**The Second "R": How to Support and Stretch Talented Writers**

*Prof Ann Ellsworth - Madison - T, GT, P, CS*

*Category: Curriculum Best for elementary, middle, & high school*

This presentation shares how mentor texts and playing with language lay the foundation for written expression and challenge writers, inviting them to take risks with form, audience, purpose, and topic. Examples of student work—initial and subsequent drafts—will be shared as inspiration. As well, participants will leave with list of students' "Top Picks" for favorite assignments.

**Twice Exceptional Students**

*Dr. Tracy Missett - Jefferson T, A, GT, P, CS*

*Category: Social and Emotional Needs, Parenting, Other Best for elementary & middle school*

This presentation will describe the affective and cognitive characteristics of students who are both gifted and have a disability that affects learning. It will also address possible advocacy strategies for parents and instructional strategies for teachers.

**Open the Door to Parent-Led Enrichment**

*Molly Stockdale & Julie Merritt - Glacier/Yellowstone - P, T, GT, A*

*Category: Parenting, Differentiation Best for elementary & middle school*

How do you answer the parent who asks, "What can I do to help?" Instead of pointing them to the PTA or PTO, welcome them into your classroom to share their unique talents and experiences with gifted students. Parents Julie Merritt and Molly Stockdale have volunteered in classrooms and led after-school activities in both elementary and middle schools in Missoula. They will share their experiences and offer suggestions on how to engage parents to provide enrichment activities for gifted kiddos. They'll also invite participants to share stories of successful parent-teacher partnerships.

**2:00 - 2:30 p.m.      BREAK**

***Visit the Vendors! Network with Colleagues!***

**2:30 - 4:00      FRIDAY BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**Enriching Education with Escape Games Part 2: Hands on Workshop**

*Ralph Walters and Jaime Rauch, Big Sky Breakout - Parlor A - A, P, T, GT, CS*

*Category: Other Best for all grade levels*

***Attendance of Part 1 of this workshop is not required for the attendance of Part 2***



A hands-on workshop implementing escape room games in the classroom. Attendees will get a chance to brainstorm and create their own "Escape" ideas and challenges.

### **How to Meet the Needs of Gifted Students in the General Education Classroom and Why it is Essential for Their Learning**

*Melanie Williams, Cori Trudeau, Louise Ferst - [Parlor D](#) - T, A, GT, CS, P, C, PP*

*Category: Differentiation, Technology [Best for any grade level](#)*

Meeting the needs of the gifted student in the general education classroom is not just beneficial, it is necessary. Gifted students are gifted all the time which requires differentiation throughout their school day. This presentation will provide ideas and purpose for compacting, clustering, and differentiating in the classroom. Most ideas and assessments can be adapted to any grade level.

### **Coding and Robotics for the Next Generation**

*Janae Christensen & Paula Koch - [Madison](#) - P, T, GT*

*Category: Technology [Best for elementary & middle school](#)*

This presentation will introduce teachers to the basics of computer coding using binary numbers, the website code.org and programmable robots, Ozobot and Sphero.

### **Introduction to Gifted & Talented**

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*Category: General information, Social & Emotional Needs, Parenting [Best for all](#)*

Are you new to the world of gifted education? Come & hear a brief overview of definitions, state law, social & emotional needs, perfectionism, underachievement, over-excitabilities, 2E (twice exceptional), & creativity. Questions are welcomed & encouraged!

**4:30 PM FRIDAY General Business Session**  
**Annual Montana AGATE Membership Meeting - [Jefferson](#)**

This is the yearly business meeting of the AGATE membership.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

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**THANK YOU for attending the Montana AGATE Conference!!**

**Next year's conference will be in Billings. We hope to see you there!**