

I've been so grateful for the support I've had from our principal in establishing a real high school TAG program instead of one that's only on paper. The key has been communication—I strongly advocate for our TAG students, but I make sure to communicate with her about what I'm doing, especially when students want to do something we haven't done before. A strong, effective high school program not only helps the TAG students, but also helps raise the bar for our other students as well. **Highlighted items available upon request**

### Group TAG Time

TAG time serves 3 purposes:

1. Students have a chance to be with their peer group.
2. Students have an opportunity to learn about specific topics related to giftedness.
3. I learn more about student's interests and passions helping me better meet their individual and group needs.

Many TAG time activities are based on

*The Essential Guide to Talking with Gifted Teens: Ready-to-Use Discussions About Identity, Stress, Relationships, and More* Jean Sunde Peterson Ph.D.

Includes activities about perfectionism, underachievement, balancing work/life goals, anxiety, learning to advocate for themselves, passive/aggressive/assertive, facades, the role of values in career selection, and test scores vs. intelligence.

I also use

*Career Match: Connecting Who You Are with What You'll Love to Do* by Shoya Zichy

Contains a simplified version of the Myers-Briggs personality test--sophomores take this and receive info about their profile

*Other resources for meeting high school students' affective needs*

*If You Don't Know Where You're Going, You'll Probably End Up Somewhere Else* by David Campbell

*More Than A Test Score: Teens Talk About Being Gifted, Talented, or Otherwise Extra-Ordinary* by Robert A. Schultz and James R. Delisle

*Perfectionism: What's Bad About Being Too Good?* by Miriam Adderholdt and Jan Goldberg

*The Gifted Kids' Survival Guide: A Teen Handbook* by Judy Galbraith and Jim Delisle

*College Planning for Gifted Students* by Sandra L. Berger

*Independent Study Where Creative Minds Expand* by Dodie Merritt

*Philosophy for Teens: Questions Life's Big Ideas* by Sharon M. Kaye and Paul Thomson

Other TAG time activities include:

- ACT/SAT prep and comparison of the two tests [www.number2.com](http://www.number2.com) . It's free and they can set up their own account to work on it as they want.
- **College planning timelines**
- **Electronic student plans**
- **Start of school year interest survey**
- **End of senior year exit survey**
- Yoga/stress management relaxation techniques with a local yoga instructor
- Importance of laughter and play, finding balance as students and adults
- **Review of test data before IA Assessments to aid in goal setting**
- **Charlie Brown Thanksgiving event with Thanksgiving Charades**
- Welcome/Advice book for incoming freshmen class, juniors visit incoming freshmen at end of year get together
- Once a month game day—electronic Catch Phrase, Apples to Apples, Charoodles, Set, Blink
- Service projects—[www.studentsrebuild.org](http://www.studentsrebuild.org)
- Ted Talks—how to use a paper towel and learn to read Chinese
- Girl time—specific girl issues

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QX9ggZs9zgo>
- Things I wish I'd known about college and other similar videos. (Please watch it first as you may not feel it's appropriate for your school or group.)
- Movies—*October Sky* and for girls *The Competition*
- Children's books—*Eggbert the Slightly Cracked Egg*, *Swimmy*
- (books where the main character is "different" but later realizes how special it is to be different)
- Power of Gratitude-- <http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/Books/video/man-sends-note-every-day-one-year-365-thank-yous-12411437>

### Parent/Student Meetings

- Monthly TAG calendars for parents/students sent with targeted/timely email
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade transition meeting PowerPoint
- College Planning/Preparedness/Goal Setting meeting PowerPoint
- Summer Reading lists
- Summer Opportunities

### Out of school resources:

We do 2-3 field trips a year with TAG students for out of school resources. I try to get them on several types of college campuses for events over the course of their 4-years in high school. Here's a list of the ones we use yearly or every other year:

- U of I mini-med school/engineering department visit
- Drake University, law student for a day
- Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center at UNI
- Youth Matinee Series at ISU
- Young Iowa Scholars Conference (depending on location)
- Road Less Traveled Conference for girls at ISU
- Des Moines Civic Center

In the past we've seen *Macbeth*, *The Kite Runner*, and *Letters Home*. This year we're going to a program at the Civic Center in Des Moines (Scrap Arts Music performance) and will then travel to Simpson College. Whenever we attend a program on a college campus, we eat in one of the campus dining halls and tour the campus.

For help with funding: Iowa Arts Council Big Yellow School Bus grant (\$220 towards bus costs)  
<http://www.iowaartscouncil.org/funding/overview.shtml>

We also partner with another school for the U of I trip and alternate providing transportation

Our high school Academic Boosters provide \$5 towards cost of lunch, school covers fees for students who cost would be a barrier

### Mentorships/Internships

Basically, just follow this fabulous book:

*Mentorship: The Essential Guide for Schools and Business*, Reilly, J

Mentorship brochure and how to start mentorship PowerPoint

### Time Management

My contract includes 8 extended days due to extensive individual student/parent meetings, meetings with newly identified students/parents, summer meetings and TAG ID is prepared in summer so TAG ID committee can meet before school starts

TAG time takes place during homeroom, meet with one grade level per day (I'm not assigned a homeroom group) and one extra prep period as my TAG prep period