



Join the Iowa Talented and Gifted Association in celebrating Gifted Education Awareness Month October 2018

Below are some suggested activities to celebrate giftedness in your school and district. Let ITAG know what you are doing so we can share with others.

Teachers

- Know the [basics](#) about gifted education, the needs of gifted students, and relevant sections of [Iowa Code and Iowa Administrative Code](#) that apply to gifted and talented education.
- Ask to be on the agenda for your school board's October meeting. Have TAG students present on their achievements or present a video they have made about participating in the TAG program.
- Share the National Association for Gifted Children [Giftedness Knows No Boundaries posters](#) where appropriate in your building, your district, and on Facebook, Twitter, and other social platforms. NAGC also has short videos available for you to use and share: <http://www.giftednessknowsnoboundaries.org/promos/>.
- Create an [infographic](#) about your school's or district's ELP/GT/TAG program. Share it with administrators, classroom teachers, school board members, community leaders, and parents.
- Inform your local newspaper, radio, and TV about Gifted Education Month. Ask them to feature what's happening in your district to meet the needs of gifted students.
- Find a way to communicate with staff and colleagues (weekly email, building blog, weekly newsletter) with strategies for working with gifted students (for example, cluster grouping, pretesting, curriculum compacting, behavior characteristics of gifted students). (If you would like suggestions for activities to schedule or talking points on gifted education, contact ITAG at info@iowatag.org.)
- Invite a legislator to visit your classroom to interact with GT students. Urge your legislator to support gifted education. If you would like suggestions for activities to schedule or talking points on gifted education, contact ITAG (info@iowatag.org).

- Create and send home a mailing for parents with resources for parents of gifted students. (Suggested sources for resources: [ITAG](#), [Belin-Blank Center for Gifted Education](#), [National Association for Gifted Children](#), [Hoagies' Gifted Education Page](#), [Davidson Institute for Talent Development](#).)
- Share information with parents and colleagues about the [2018 ITAG Conference Parent Night](#), free to anyone who is interested, focusing on Boredom and Creativity in the Gifted Child
- Plan a workshop and facilitate professional learning about a relevant aspect of gifted education for teachers, administrators, and school board members (for example, social-emotional needs of gifted students; how advanced learners can be incorporated in your district's MTSS plan; or a topic suggested by the [NAGC Standards for All Teachers](#)).
- Arrange to speak to parent groups (PTA, PTO) and other community groups such as the Lion's Club or other service clubs about the purpose of gifted education or to highlight positive aspects of gifted education in your district. Include a slide presentation or videotaped presentation, if appropriate.
- Write a thank you letter to someone who inspired you to teach gifted students.
- Write letters to the editor thanking legislators, community members, school board members, and others for visiting your classroom and learning about gifted education.
- Ask local businesses to advertise Gifted Education Awareness Month on their marquee or computerized signs.
- Hold an open house for parents, administrators, teachers, school board members, school board members, and community leaders. If possible, have snacks to encourage building teachers to attend before school or over lunch.
- Check the public library for current books about the needs of gifted students or gifted education. Talk with the librarian about purchasing books on the topic; be prepared with a list of suggested books. Make a request to a parent group to purchase a book(s) about the needs of gifted students or gifted education for the public library. NAGC maintains up-to-date [links to new publications](#).
- Each day of Gifted Education Awareness Month, display a quotation by a famous gifted person. Hoagie's Gifted Education Page shares [examples of gifted education quotes](#).
- Prepare crates or folders of materials on various topics of interest to parents of the gifted (e.g., sibling relationships, underachievement, and summer opportunities). Be sure to advertise their availability for check out.
- Invite a panel of gifted graduates to discuss pros and cons of their program experiences. Students, teachers, or parents can be the audience.

- Prepare a “Question of the Day” for each day of Gifted Education Month. Display the questions so all students may participate by doing research and handing in their answers. If feasible, offer prizes.
- Share the Gifted Children’s Bill of Rights at bit.ly/giftedbor.
- Visit with your administrators about conducting a review of your district’s academic acceleration policy. Suggestions for best practices in an acceleration policy can be found at the [Acceleration Institute](#).
- Bring a district team to the ITAG pre-conference workshop on Sunday, October 14, to learn tips about serving advanced students within an MTSS framework.
- Attend Day 1 of the [ITAG Annual Conference](#), Monday, October 15. Post a take-home tip that you learned today on social media. Tag @iowagifted.
- Attend the Day 2 of the [ITAG Annual Conference](#), Tuesday, October 16. Post a new idea that you learned during today’s sessions on social media. Tag @iowagifted
- Visit the ITAG website (www.iowatag.org)! While you’re on the website, become a Friend of ITAG to support gifted education efforts in the state!
- Don’t stop here! Just because Gifted Education Awareness Month is ending doesn’t mean that the celebration of giftedness needs to end! Continue to implement innovative ideas through the rest of the school year.

Students

- Create a video about the importance of gifted education. Ask about posting it to your school and district website. Share with local television stations.
- Host students from another grade level to visit your building to interact with other GT students.
- Create your own version of NAGC’s [Giftedness Knows No Boundaries posters](#). Display the posters in the hallways.
- Write a thank you letter to a teacher who made a real difference in your life.
- Write advice about what is important to you in your educational experience. You can do this each year of school as your needs and interests change. Work with your teacher to create a What I Know Now book (e.g., advice from seniors that can be shared with parents and other students).

Parents

- Meet with your student's TAG teacher to learn about the gifted program and get tips for supporting your child at home.
- Form a parent group for parents of gifted students to network or find out if your district has a parent group. NAGC has [Resources for Parents](#), including information for [Starting & Sustaining a Parent Group to Support Gifted Children](#)..
- Arrange a book club for parents for October (some suggested titles: *Parenting Gifted Kids: Tips for Raising Happy and Successful Gifted Children*, by James Delisle, Ph.D., *A Parent's Guide to Gifted Children*, by James T. Webb and Janet L. Gore)
- Attend Parent Night, [free to those who are interested](#), at the annual ITAG conference. The 2018 Parent Night speaker is Dr. Kris Wiley speaking on boredom and creativity, Monday, October 15, 2018, 6:30 PM, Airport Holiday Inn in Des Moines.
- Join ITAG! [Join as a Parent Member](#) and also become a [Friend of ITAG!](#)
- Ask your GT teacher how you can become involved in supporting the program's activities.