Join Iowa Talented and Gifted Association
in celebrating
Gifted Education Awareness Month
October 2021

See proclamation here: Gifted Education Awareness Month 2021.pdf

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.

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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.
• Celebrate the strong attributes of your identification and programming. Use this opportunity to note areas of improvement so that students with high potential are not overlooked.

• Ask to be on the agenda for your school board’s next meeting. Have TAG students present their achievements or present a video they have made about participating in the TAG program. Make sure to share why gifted programs matter.

• 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 Parent Day at ITAG’s 2021 Annual Conference: https://www.iowatag.org/2021-annual-conference/

• 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 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 or share online for expanded access.

• 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 and the Culturally Responsible Bill of Rights: https://www.nagc.org/blog/culturally-responsive-equity-based-bill-rights-gifted-students-color

• 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 event on Sunday evening, October 17. Learn from speakers and panelists in a question and answer session with a host of experts.

● Attend Monday of the ITAG 2021 Annual Conference on October 18. Post a take-home tip that you learned today on social media. Tag @iowagifted.

● Attend Tuesday of the ITAG 2021 Annual Conference on October 19. 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.

- If you have questions about the gifted program in your child’s school, reach out to your child’s classroom teacher or GT teacher. Share those attributes of programming that you feel make a difference for your child.

- 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.


- Attend Parent Day on Sunday, October 17 at the ITAG 2021 Annual Conference. Keynote is Emily Kircher-Morris of https://neurodiversitypodcast.com/about-us. The event is held at the Airport Holiday Inn in Des Moines beginning at 1 pm. Register here https://www.iowatag.org/2021-annual-conference/ or reach out to ITAG for details.

- Participate in the SENG session at Parent Day during day 1 of ITAG’s 2021 Annual Conference! Watch ITAG’s communiques and website for news regarding a 2022 SENG Parent Group! To find out more about SENG, look here: https://www.sengifted.org/. More information from ITAG coming soon!

- Join ITAG! See Membership and Friend information Brochure and Infographic and here: Friend of ITAG.

- Ask your GT teacher how you can become involved in supporting the program’s activities.

- Share a great resource with your child’s GT teacher/mentor.