

WAETAG

Washington Association of Educators
of the Talented and Gifted



Fall 2017 Newsletter

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Dear Jan,

Grand Opening of the New & Improved WAETAG Website!

We are pleased to announce the launch of our brand-new website, and we want you to be the first to check it out! With you in mind we've creative a site we hope will support and empower you as you work diligently to support and empower your students.

Check it out now:

www.waetag.com



WAETAG 2017: Grow the Gifts You Have

Wendy Clark
 Vice President & Conference Chair

A balance of the right amounts of sunlight and water, along with rich soil to provide a foundation in which to grow, can result in a plentiful garden. How can we apply those same principles in our classroom? What elements can provide the best foundation and nutrients in which to grow? Join us this October as Ian Byrd, Brian Housand and several others help us explore ways to show students how to "Grow the Gifts You Have."



We are extremely pleased to bring back by popular demand Ian Byrd as one of our keynote speakers. Ian taught gifted students in California, where he grew up as a gifted child. His websites Byrdseed.com and Byrdseed.TV are wildly popular among the gifted community, and provide hours worth of gems to explore. In addition to presenting two breakout sessions, Ian will be get WAETAG 2017 underway with a morning keynote (new to WAETAG!) address, "Cultivating Curious Kids."

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Visit our [website!](#)

Stay Connected



Friday evening will be an extra-special treat as Ian Byrd and Brian Housand kick off the first of their two part keynote address together. Part one will be "Future Careers for Gifted Kids."

Rapidly developing technologies have empowered the creative, quirky, and obsessed (sound like anyone you know?) to use those traits to create their own careers. Our students have the potential to create their own paths while earning a living doing the things they love. We'll explore case studies and look at new tools for communicating, publishing and even getting paid. We will continue to explore these ideas Saturday morning with both Brian and Ian for part two, "Paving the Path to the World of Tomorrow Starting Today!" We will examine how you can begin providing support for your students' futures today through classroom strategies to leverage their current interests to catapult them into the world of tomorrow.

Brian Housand, associate professor for East Carolina University and presenter at dozens of state and national conferences for gifted education, will close out our action packed two-day conference with a final keynote Saturday afternoon, "Utilizing Technology to Construct Personal Learning Experiences." He will also be presenting two breakout sessions during the conference. Brian is sure to become another WAETAG favorite as everyone we know who has seen him present comes away inspired and impressed.

There is truly something for everyone this year at WAETAG 2017; FOUR keynote addresses, breakout sessions for ALL academic areas, grade levels and teacher experience levels and up to 12.5 FREE clock hour! Come join us October 13-14 as we join together to "Grow the Gifts You Have."



Talented & Gifted Reading Improvement Solutions

Talented and Gifted students need personalized instruction that rises to their level and challenges them to reach their full academic potential. Reading Plus provides proficient readers with the opportunity to continue building their own knowledge, skills, and motivation.

[Download the full informational PDF here.](#)

President's Message

Vicki Edwards

The WAETAG Board met in August at the beautiful Lake Kachess Lodge with lofty goals. We were focused on committee work for the fall conference, beginning preparations for the 2018 conference, working on long and short-range strategic planning and making final preparations to launch our new website. At the close of our three-day meeting, I was proud of the goals we met and honored to be working with a team of passionate advocates for gifted children. I began reflecting on how much has happened in Gifted Education in Washington State and the nation since last fall's conference.

In January, the UW Robinson Center hosted an Equity Summit on Gifted Education featuring local and national speakers addressing topics related to equity in gifted education. You can find resources from this two day conference [here](#).

February 2 was Gifted Education Day in Olympia. In addition to 300 neon-green scarves bringing visibility to gifted education throughout the Olympia campus, I was honored to be introduced at a caucus with Camille Jones, Washington Teacher of the Year 2016. Our host, Representative Dent was proud of our roles both as teachers in Washington's District 13 and also colleagues in Quincy School District.

I had the privilege of representing WAETAG at the Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C. in March. Despite a freak blizzard that shut down most of the city, other advocates and I were determined to keep our appointments with key lawmakers and bring awareness to the imbalance of funding for gifted education nationwide. We presented statistics from the NAGC and the Institute for Educational Advancement regarding the misconceptions about educating the gifted child and statistics addressing the discrepancy between the actual number of identified highly capable students and the number of students receiving funding or support nationwide. You can read the Poll of Voters about Gifted Education [here](#), and voice your concern to your legislators. NAGC also lists some key ways to effectively communicate to our elected officials, I followed these pieces of advice and found them to be helpful while in Washington, D.C. as a voice for WAETAG, gifted educators and gifted children.

In August, eleven WAETAG Board members from different parts of the state dedicated three days to the goals we set forth on our agenda. We purposely set the bar high, yet we exceeded the long-range and immediate goals we set and are especially excited to roll out the new and improved WAETAG website.

Several times during the retreat I stopped, looked around and felt such pride for the amazing group gathered to bring the best gifted education has to offer for the fall conference. This board meeting was also about longevity. Our work will ensure that we have high caliber protocols and programs in place this fall and for years to come.

Join us October 13-14 at Hotel Murano in Tacoma for this year's WAETAG Conference!

Highly Capable Program Changes in the Law for 2017-2018

Jody Hess

Recent changes will affect your highly capable program funding and identification!

The new law, Engrossed House Bill 2242, signed on June 30, 2017 made welcome changes to the Highly Capable funding formula and prioritized equitable identification to address disproportionality. The Highly Capable funding formula increases from 2.314 percent to 5.0 percent of each school district's population. (This is a funding formula and does not mean a certain percentage of students need to be identified.)

EHB 2242 makes equitable identification of low-income students a priority. This is to address the typical disparity between low-income and non-low income identified Highly Capable students. Statewide, 48% of all Washington students are low-income (free/reduced eligible). However, of identified Highly Capable students only 21% are low-income. Districts are required to submit an outline of how they will implement changes this school year, as part of the 2017-18 Highly Capable Program Plan. OSPI is charged to provide technical assistance and professional learning opportunities to help districts meet this requirement.

OSPI is filing an emergency rule adoption to align with HB 2242. It will take effect immediately on filing. The regular process of revising the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) to align with the new law will be conducted in 2017-18 and take effect when emergency rules expire.

Thanks for the many advocates working over years to promote the needs of our Highly Capable students!

Vying for Volunteers

Wendy Clark

Would you or someone you know love to attend the conference but aren't able to secure enough funding? We invite you to sign up as a volunteer. By volunteering for one day of the conference you will receive one day free.

Volunteer shifts are available on a first-come basis, and it will be at WAETAG's discretion which day we need you to volunteer vs. which day you'd like to participate in the conference. We will do our best to accommodate your schedule requests, but cannot guarantee any day.

The total cost for registration will be one day of volunteering plus \$150. This is less than half of the cost for the full conference. We appreciate our volunteers so incredibly much. We truly would not be able to do this without you!



We're Taking WAETAG on the Road!

Lisa Morgan

Let's face it, teaching highly capable kids can be a lonely adventure. We love the kids, and we love what we're doing, but wouldn't it be great to get together with like-minded adults more often than once a year at a conference?

This school year, WAETAG is taking it on the road! Your WAETAG Regional ESD representative has organized informal, after school meet ups in your area. We have built it, now please come! We'll share successful lessons, books and email addresses. We'll discuss new ideas and help with strategies for differentiation. All teachers of all grade levels and learning levels are welcome. We work hard and we need one another. Let's get together!

Look for dates and meeting times at your ESD table during our Saturday lunch at "Grow the Gifts You Have," the 2017 WAETAG Conference, October 13 and 14.

HiCapPLUS Jacob K. Javits Project Update

Jody Hess

We look forward to Implementation Year of our project to develop and promote professional learning and technical assistance modules for educators of Highly Capable students. The modules will be housed in Canvas online management tool. Dr. Nancy Hertzog and Dr. Jann Leppien, our content developers, focused on research-based practices to address identification and service for under-served subgroups. Pilot districts and ESDs worked to "test drive" the Access and Equity modules. Their experience continues to shape development.

The second series of modules features pedagogy and strategies for classroom teachers, counselors and specialists. Over school year 2017-18, modules will be launched and accessible by districts and educators. We look forward to opportunities to share professional development activities statewide, virtually and in person.

Stay tuned for more information through the WAETAG newsletter and OSPI updates during the year.

ELA Teacher Resources

Jen Flo

Helping all students reach their potential is our profession, and whether you work in a dynamic PLC, or are trying to create a unit/class on your own, here are some tools that I have bookmarked for Language Arts Resources and go to frequently:

[NAGC](#)

This site offers a variety of resources for educators, administrators, and parents. I like to refer back to the National Standards page to review those standards in quality programming, assessment, and other areas. This site also offer theory, research, strategies and other educational practices that help me create classroom opportunities for all students.

[Byrdseed](#)

Always engaging and challenging, Ian Byrd offers teachers resources that promote deeper thinking and exploration of ideas. Teachers can download free resources and purchase additional items in his store. Some of my favorites include his extensive idiom activities (you can sign up for a weekly email!), character analysis, and developing a coat of arms. There are free lessons and video lessons, and I think your students will love them!

[Hoagies Gifted](#)

This resource page (one of many on this site) has gathered a list of published books.

[Reading Like a Historian](#)

From their website: "The Reading Like a Historian curriculum engages students in historical inquiry. Each lesson revolves around a central historical question and features sets of primary documents designed for groups of students with diverse reading skills and abilities." Although geared for middle school/high school, I have adapted some of the lessons for fifth grade.

[Achieve the Core](#)

Resources on this site include passages from all grade levels, across genres, that are rich and rigorous. It is easily searchable and includes questions that help start classroom discussions.

[Literacy Design Collaborative](#)

On this site, there are a variety of lessons and units for STEM, Social Studies and literacy.

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