

# McFarland School District Advanced Learner Services Newsletter

April, 2020



## Tips for Learning at Home

We're all practicing our social distancing and experiencing unprecedented times. Here's some tips for success:

- Set up a **workstation** where you "do school". Your home office :)
- Establish a **routine**: Start your day like you normally do--wash, dress, eat breakfast. Be ready for school!
- **Start slow** and get accustomed to the new way to learn
- Do a **variety of activities** in a day. Enjoy reading or being read to; do math in a variety of applied ways like doubling a recipe; how about a science experiment; dance, do an art project, explore topics in history of your choice, get outside and discover signs of spring.
- **Celebrate every day!** Each day moves you to new possibilities, greater health and healing, and a stronger sense of togetherness as a family.
- Allow your child to **have a voice** in what he or she wants to learn. This is a perfect opportunity for exploring topics of personal interest.

For more tips go to The HomeSchool Mom [here](#).

### Resources for You

WATG has posted over 50 resources which include online courses, craft ideas, virtual museum tours, science experiments, Daily math exercises and much more! [Here is the list!](#)

WATG has created an event on the WATG Facebook page for 4K-12th graders in Wisconsin to display their work during these days of distancing. Look for it on [Facebook](#) and the tab on the [WATG website](#)

The Madison Club has partnered with The [Monroe Street Arts Center](#) to bring a series of crafting videos to help entertain the kids while you're stuck in the house! [Click here](#) to access their first video and be sure to watch for the release of the next crafting activity

[Renzulli Learning](#) is providing free usage that will allow teachers to make enrichment activities available to students at home during this crisis To access the program go to: <https://renzullilearning.com/free-trial/>

April is National Poetry Month. [Here are 30 ways to Celebrate!](#)

Free E-=Books from [Project Gutenberg](#)

CommonSense Media has the 25 Best Podcasts for Kids [Podcasts](#)

**First in Math:** [First in Math](#) is an excellent program for students to practice basic math facts and is currently offering free accounts.



## Summer Opportunities!!



A complete list of summer opportunities is now available. It is available here and on the [McFarland District Website](#). Why summer activities? Summer is the time you can follow your heart and do the things you love. It's important for everyone to be able to follow their passion. When you engage in activities you enjoy, you meet other people who also like to do the things you do. These can start life long friendships. Take a look and spend time shopping for activities that you can look forward to when we can get back out and in the world!



**Annual Conference  
October 18,19, & 20**

**Hands On, Minds On!**

*Wilderness Resort, Wisconsin Dells*

**NEW THIS YEAR!**

**Sunday October 18:** Teen Conference \$60  
[Arduino](#) will offer the workshop. 9:00 - 12:00

*You do not need to purchase the kit to participate.*

**Parent Sessions \$60**

Monday October 19: Keynote Marcia Gentry  
Tuesday October 20: Keynote Brian Housand

**More to Come!**

<http://www.watg.org/annual-conference.html>



### **Free Parent Webinar**

**With Colin Seale**

*Beyond "Full Potential": Reconsidering  
What Success Means for Gifted Children*

**April 7, 6:30 p.m.**

Every parent wants their child to be successful. But parents of gifted children often feel an added pressure to unleash their child's "full potential." This webinar will give parents of gifted children powerful, but practical tools to understand the harms of the "full potential" myth and practical tools to move towards a more healthy, hopeful, and happy path to set children up to excel.

[Register Here](#)

### **SOAR Camp** (Summer Opportunity

with Advanced Rigor) is a work of the heart by folks who deeply enjoy working with and providing opportunities for gifted youth. This one of a kind camp is located in Northern Wisconsin. Campers delight in the opportunities for cabin life, campfires, cookouts, camp games, swimming, and canoeing all embedded into experiences with STEM, writing, history, creative expression, and the arts. Throughout the week the campers will have self-advocacy and leadership training as well as team building opportunities. Campers build lasting friendships with kids who are "just like them". There are counselors in every cabin, camp staff, volunteer teachers and school counselors as well as on-site experts in

### **Staff Office Hours**

The McFarland Advanced Learner Staff will have daily office hours. These are posted on the individual school building communications.

### **Hey High School Juniors!!**

Now is a REALLY good time to explore college and university website. Take their virtual tour. Check out the community. Look at their degree options. Decide which one(s) you would like to visit. NOW is the time to look!!

varying fields. Registration is open now! There is space for 40 campers for grades 6-8 and 20 campers for grades 3-5. Spots are filling quickly! Detailed information and registration forms can be found [Here](#). If you have any questions, contact Cathy Schmit at 715-612-8105.

**\$\$\$ Scholarships are available \$\$\$** for summer programs. The Wisconsin Association for Talented and Gifted (WATG) has summer camp scholarships with an application deadline of April 15th. The link is here: [WATG Scholarships](#)



**Gifted and Talented Educator License**  
*Revised course of study is now available from UW\_Whitewater.*

They have revised the course of study for a license in Gifted and Talented Education (they still call it that whereas we call it Advanced Learner Education) It is just three 3-credit courses for the extended teacher license. One additional 3-credit course qualifies you for the Program Coordinator License. All courses are completely online so there is no need to travel to Whitewater (or another site). The first of the three courses will begin this summer. The second is offered in the fall semester and the final will run in the spring semester. They need a minimum of 15 people to run this course of study. Deadline to register is June 15. You need a teaching license in order to qualify for this course of study. More information can be found here: [Gifted and Talented Education Licenses](#)

***Stay connected!***

\*[Join the Wisconsin Association for Talented and Gifted \(WATG\)](#) to receive the monthly newsletter and other updates.

\*[Join the Gifted List Serve:](#)

WISGIFT-L is designed for discussion of issues related to gifted children in Wisconsin. It is a cooperative project between UW-Whitewater and WATG. It is an unmoderated list, which means that anyone who cares to subscribe may post a message. Messages are not screen. You must subscribe to the list in order to send messages to it. on Send a message to:

[lyris@listmanager.uww.edu](mailto:lyris@listmanager.uww.edu)

In the body of the message, type: SUBSCRIBE WISGIFT-L

Leave the subject line blank, and don't include your signature

You will receive a welcome message from UW-Whitewater confirming your subscription.



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***Need more Information regarding Gifted Programming in the McFarland School District? Check out our website at <https://www.mcfarland.k12.wi.us/families/AdvLearner.cfm>***

**Advanced Learner Services Staff**

District Coordinator of Advanced Learner Services: Kitty Ver Kuilen\*

**838- 3166 Ext 4537**

Indian Mound Middle School & McFarland High School: Mary Donagan

**838- 3166 Ext 4537**

Waubesa Intermediate School: Lisa Sheil

**838-7667 Ext. 5460**

Conrad Elvehjem Primary School: Carol Grieg

**838-3146 Ext. 4926**

Program Assistant: Jess Karls

**838-3169 Ext 5469**

*\*Call the coordinator first if you have questions. Kitty has returned as the interim coordinator for the remainder of the school year. She will be in the district one day/week but is available to answer questions.*

