September

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McFarland High School welcomes

Mary Donagan as the interim Advanced Learner resource Teacher.

We deeply appreciate all the contributions

Cindy Clark has made to the gifted program here in McFarland. Even though she is now retired, we continue to benefit from her support and wisdom.

McFarland District Services for Advanced Learners

Newsletter

Annual Conference
November 5 & 6
Kalahari in Wisconsin Dells

Register here: http://www.watg.org/

Come join the opportunity to network with educators, parents, and other professionals with the common goal of learning and advocating for the needs of gifted children in Wisconsin.

Highlights include keynotes by Gifted Guru, Lisa Van Gemert: Harnessing the Power of Neuroscience and Dr. Mary Ruth Coleman on Gifted Education and RtI.

There are also over twenty-five break-out sessions with something for everyone: understanding the brain and how it continually grows, academic enrichment strategies, acceleration, and social and emotional issues. See the full catalog of choices here. Exhibitors, Friday Parent Breakfast, networking opportunities and, sessions targeted to parents needs.

Bring the Family! The Kalahari has a weekend deal—two nights for the price of one so you could come for the conference and stay for the weekend!

Teen Conference for Ages 13 and Up November 6
Celebrate YOU!!

Hold your inner camera out and snap a shot of yourself as you really are, then use some effective filters to make the picture all you want it to be. Morning: Gifted 'guru' Lisa Van Gemert will guide you to discover your strengths and build them, recognize your areas for growth and minimize them, and name your insecurities and eliminate them. She’ll then work with you to seize your strengths, recognize the powerful forces in your favor, and learn your place in the world, increasing your motivation and a sense of empowerment.

Afternoon: educational improve super hero, Peggy Eserkaln, will give you a chance to 'post' your new inner selfie. Through improvisational techniques and games, you will get some experience with positive risk taking and celebrating your individual strengths. Dress comfortably and be ready to engage!

Fee: $50 includes food!

View the Teen Conference flyer here
Register HERE!

Meeting the Need

Students come to us from many different situations and backgrounds. Because of this, we have a variety of programming options based on the identification of students’ learning needs. Our gifted program is not something you are “in” or “out”. Programming for our students remains flexible and fluid depending on the students identified needs.

Our website has two power points on the subject of identification. Access them at http://www.mcfarland.k12.wi.us/families/Advanced_Learner/gt_services.ppt or right click on the cartoon:)

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**Gifted Kid’s Bill of Rights**

*You have a right…*

- To know about your giftedness
- To learn something new every day
- To be passionate about your talent area without apologies
- To have an identity beyond your talent area
- To feel good about your accomplishments
- To make mistakes
- To seek guidance in the development of your talent
- To have multiple peer groups and a variety of friends
- To choose which of your talent areas you wish to pursue
- Not to be gifted in everything

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**3 Back-to-School Resolutions for High School Students**

Counselors suggest encouraging teens to try something new this year!

1. **Clean up their online presence**: Many high schoolers don’t realize what they post online could come back to haunt them later, in terms of their college and career plans. It’s time to think more deeply about their digital footprint and what it is going to do for them later. (Franciene Sabens, school counselor at Chester High School in Illinois).

2. **Take a new class or extracurricular activity**: If a student even has an inkling they are interested in something, they should try it now! High school is the time for students to figure out who they are. Trying a new class or activity can help students build their confidence and their belief in their own abilities. It’s good for students to challenge themselves with something new (Julia Richardson, school counselor at Campbell HS in Smyma, Georgia.)

3. **Plan for college and career**: A new activity or class could also influence postsecondary plans. Make a four-year plan so the classes you need/want are available for you. Sometimes parents of high schoolers have a hard time letting go and letting students figure things out, says Sabens. “When we do that as parents, we actually make it more difficult for them later in life.” She suggests that we show them the resources and let them decide what they want to do.

   By Alexandra Pannoni
Advocacy

Here's what effective advocacy for your child could look like


Advocating for yourself takes courage. It is understandable that students are reluctant to ask for more challenging work. Teachers sometimes pile on more rather than different work; peers may deride the student who wants something more difficult. Students must be taught how to speak up appropriately on their own behalf.

Understand your rights but also your responsibilities: the ideal is that all students have the right to an appropriate education so they can learn something new every day. With this comes the responsibility of good work habits (such as turning quality work in on time), treating others with respect, and being organized.


Be aware of the opportunities that exist within the district as well as the community. There are AP courses, classroom enrichment opportunities, curriculum compacting, acceleration, independent study, mentorships, extracurricular clubs and teams, dual enrollment, distance learning options such as WVA, APEX, ALEKS, online college classes and more.

Connect with Advocates we are here for you! We have a Coordinator of Gifted Services and every building has a GT Resource Teacher. That is a good place to start. We also have guidance counselors and supportive teachers who will advocate for you.

“Think of advocacy as a partnership: parents, teachers, and counselors working together to support the student’s decision. Get to know the school personnel who can help make a difference.” (228)
Philosophy

The McFarland School District strives to meet the needs of all of their students, including those in the gifted population. We recognize outstanding talents in children and youth from all cultural groups, across all economic strata and in all areas of human endeavor. We strive to identify students in the five areas of giftedness: Intellectual, Academic, Creative, Artistic/Dramatic and Leadership and to provide them with continuous and systematic services. McFarland staff and parents work together to sustain the effectiveness of district G&T Services.

Serving You…

Kitty Ver Kuilen, District Coordinator of Gifted Services
Mary Donagan, Middle and High School Advanced Learner Resource
Lisa Sheil, Intermediate School Advanced Learner Resource
Carol Greig, Primary Campus Resource Teacher

General Information about Giftedness:

National Association for Gifted Children www.nagc.org
Hoagies' Gifted Education www.hoagiesgifted.org
Davidson Institute: a Website supporting profoundly gifted children http://www.ditd.org
Wisconsin Association for Talented and Gifted www.watg.org
Center for Talent Development at Northwestern University www.ctd.northwestern.edu
Wisconsin Center for Academically Talented Youth www.wcaty.org

Social/Emotional Issues

Sylvia Rimm www.sylviarimm.com or www.seejanewin.com

Twice Exceptional—those who are gifted but have an Exceptional Education Need

The 2e Newsletter subscription: www.2eNewsletter.com

Choice Book Titles:


More Resources

- Prufrock Press Inc http://www.prufrock.com/
- Free Spirit Publishing www.freespirit.com
- MindWare www.mindware.com