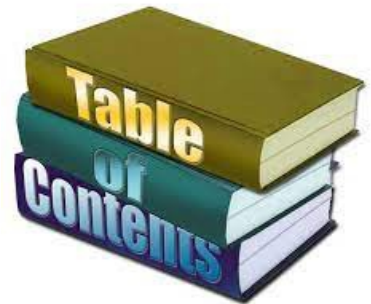


Gifted Education Newsletter

September 2022

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Meet our New GT Teachers

Welcome New GT Teachers

The D51 Gifted and Talented Department is excited to introduce our newest members of the team!

New to Taylor Elementary is Kacey Daugherty!

🏠 Kacey joins us from the SPED department where she taught moderate needs for two years. Prior to that, she was also a PE teacher.

🏆 That athletic interest can be found outside of school. Kacey enjoys paddleboarding and camping with her family.

😊 Her favorite superhero is Thor, but Kacey is our noble warrior working to promote higher-order thinking and compassion at Taylor Elementary.

New to Tope GT is Rochelle Morrison!



👤 Rochelle is not a new face at Tope. She taught 5th grade on this campus before transitioning to the GT teacher and STEAM Career facilitator.

📅 The variety of work she facilitates on campus is just as diverse as her interests outside of school. Rochelle enjoys listening to live music, hiking, camping, stand up paddleboarding, and spending time with her family.

😊 Joy from the Pixar movie Inside Out is Rochelle's favorite character and it's easy to see why. They share so many characteristics; they are both peppy, happy, optimistic, and energetic!

New to Loma Elementary is Shannon Morlan!

👤 Shannon is no stranger to the educational field. She has been a 1st through 5th teacher and part of the instructional technology team for the district.

📅 Reading and paddle boarding are Shannon's favorite ways to spend time outside of the classroom. But we can't forget to mention her new "puppy"—a year old golden retriever! You can never have enough puppy love in your life.

😊 Anne (with an "e") from Anne of Green Gables and Emma Woodhouse from Jane Austen's novel Emma are Shannon's favorite characters. Both fictional ladies share Shannon's comfortable, happy disposition and her intelligence.

New to Fruita Middle School is Johnathan (JG) Bonner!

👤 Johnathan's educational experience runs the gamut. This is his 8th year at FMS teaching 7th ELA. Prior to that, Jonathan has taught aspects of ELA at the high school and college levels.

📅 You may have heard it referred to as Quidditch, but being a fanatic, Jonathan will expound upon the virtues of Quadball. This mixed gender contact sport offers a unique mix of elements from rugby, dodgeball, and tag. More traditionally, Jonathan also enjoys watching a lively New Mexico United soccer team match.

😊 Mary McFly embodies all things fantastical and epic for Johnathan. Who wouldn't love to travel through time and play Johnny B. Goode at his parents' prom? #88mph

Westslope CO Gifted & Talented Facebook Group

This group is to support Westslope Parents of Gifted, Talented, & Twice Exceptional kids. They share hope, empowerment, ideas, opportunities, and overall support.



Gifted Education Scholarships

Did you know that the GT department offers enrichment scholarships? Did you know that these scholarships are available for any D51 student?

GT Scholarships are available for D51 students to assist with tuition for enrichment programs for students. Scholarship and amount awarded are based on our receiving a completed application

and a combination of financial need, amount available, connections to developing gifts and talents, and/or previous GT scholarship awards.

We will offer scholarship opportunities throughout the year. The final day for submitting applications is May 11, 2023. Applicants will be notified within 14 school days.

*If application is approved for a program attended before the application due date, you will be reimbursed.

[22-23 Scholarship Application \(English\)](#)

[22-23 Scholarship Application \(Spanish\)](#)

[GT Scholarship Enrichment Opportunities](#)

[List of Opportunities by Subject](#)

High School Advanced Learning Plans (ALP) Levels of Support

Our D51 Gifted Department and K-12 staff support students to grow and develop academically, socially, and emotionally. As students progress into high school, the goal is to have students take more ownership of their growth and advocate for support. Different students are ready for this at different times, therefore we set up different levels of support at high school.

Levels of support determined by data and input from student, staff, and family.

Level 1

This includes all of our school-wide ways of supporting students. This level will be on the group email list and receive monthly newsletters. However, students in this group will NOT be asked to develop individualized goals as part of an Advanced Learning Plan (ALP) but continue to be identified as gifted and have general ALP goals. There is evidence that students in this category currently do not need additional direct guidance or oversight in terms of academic or social-emotional goals; the evidence will continue to be monitored. In other words, these students are successfully managing their workload and goals independently, as evidenced by data, in order to realize their high potential.

Level 2

Students with this level of support will be on the group email list and receive monthly newsletters. Students in this category will still be identified gifted and asked to develop individual goals as part of an Advanced Learning Plan (ALP). Once students have developed their ALP the GT Liaison, counselor, or mentor (chosen by student) checks quarterly on progress towards goal(s) and other needed support.

Level 3

This is the most supportive level for gifted students. Students will be on the group email list, receive monthly newsletters, and will develop individual goals as part of an Advanced Learning Plan (ALP). In addition, the GT Liaison, counselor, or mentor (chosen by student) checks progress every 2-4 weeks. Students in this group, as evidenced by data, need more consistent guidance to support their growth.

Progress monitoring will continue for all levels, and adjustments may be made as needed.

History Alive!

History Alive! Colorado West Chautauqua

Music & Merriment

The Museum of Western Colorado, Colorado Humanities, and local partners will present Music & Merriment September 9 – 10, 2022. Performances, lectures, musical groups, and presentations by national scholars will be offered at the Grand Valley Events Center. Meet Woody Guthrie, Cass Elliot, and Erma Bombeck. All events are free and everyone is welcome. All events at the Grand Valley Events Center, 2400 Consistory Court, Grand Junction

Friday, September 9th

6:00pm – arrive early at the Grand Junction events center for Live Music (snacks will be offered by Lotus's Mobile Munchies)

7:00pm – David Fenimore as Woody Guthrie

Woody Guthrie was more poet than musician, but something about his voice and lyrics – not to mention that sly, drawling, aw-shucks stage manner– appealed to migrant worker, labor organizer, and university-educated folklorist alike. Woody had the knack of rolling up all the injustices of Depression-era class struggle into a catchy refrain set to an easy tune. He wrote “This Land” to reject Irving Berlin’s 1940 hit “God Bless America,” believing that the system was rigged against wage-earners. He distrusted the federal government and despised bankers, lawyers, corporations, socialites and other elites, demanded equal treatment for black performers. His work wasn’t widely known until after he was stricken with the hereditary disease that killed him at age 55, after progressively crippling him in body and mind for his last 20 years. Woodie wrote hundreds of songs, including classics like “Pastures of Plenty,” “Hard Traveling,” “Do-Re-Mi,” and “Deportee.” Woody injected the American folksong tradition into popular music, inspiring innumerable songwriters and performers from Bob Dylan and Bruce Springsteen to Phil Ochs, Lila Downs, Billy Bragg, Bono, and many others who wrote lyrics with pointed social and political commentary.

Saturday, September 10th

Morning – Saturday morning lectures are not in character

9:00am – Coffee with the Chautauquans

9:30am – Karen Vuranch leads a lecture/discussion “Make Your Own Kind of Music: Influences on Cass Elliot”

10:30am – Susan Marie Frontczak presents a workshop/discussion “Hooked on Humor”

11:30am – David Fenimore speaks about Woody Guthrie “Game Planning for the Next Dust Bowl”

Evening

6:00pm – arrive early for Live Music from Palisade High School Choir (snacks will be offered by Lotus’s Mobile Munchies)

7:00pm Karen Vuranch as Cass Elliot

Cass Elliot was one of singers in the iconic 1960s band the Mamas and the Papas. Known for her sense of humor and optimism, she was considered by many to be the most charismatic member of the group. Her powerful, distinctive voice was a major factor in their string of hits including: “California Dreamin,” “Monday, Monday,” and “Words of Love.” She was defined by two things – her big voice and her big size. New York Magazine said, “She has broken the strongest barrier for an aspiring star. In America, the most weight conscious nation in the world, she has become a glamour girl. She is a star not despite her weight, or because of it, but beyond it.”

8:00pm Susan Marie Frontczak as Erma Bombeck

Erma Bombeck captured with paring-knife-sharp humor the daily life of a new American phenomenon: the suburban housewife. Having figured out from her own personal experience that if you can laugh at it you can live with it, she chronicled the housewife’s daily struggles in her column “At Wit’s End” three days a week. She eventually appeared in 900 newspapers across the country and in books such as *I Lost Everything in the Post-Natal Depression* and *The Grass is Always Greener Over the Septic Tank*. Bombeck brought to American awareness the life of women whose lives otherwise felt invisible and taken for granted. She let women across America know: You are not alone. In fact, we number in the millions. I, too, am an American housewife, and I will laugh by your side. Find out how Erma got started as a humorist. And chuckle along as she pokes fun at kids, husbands, and especially herself.

Sponsored by Edward & Lois Gardner, The City of Grand Junction: Commission on Arts & Culture, Museums of Western Colorado, and Colorado Humanities



Erma Bombeck, portrayed by Susan Marie Frontczak
Erma Bombeck – photo credit Janet Adams



Cass Elliot portrayed by Karen Vuranch

Rocky Mountain PBS

Rocky Mountain PBS is excited to announce an event in Long Family Memorial Park on October 1st, from 11am to 3pm. RMPBS KIDS Fest! Come join the fun and create a memorable family experience with educational, experiential, and cultural activities. What will be at the event? Well...



What will be at this event?

- 🏠 Activity booths of many varieties
- 🚚 Food trucks
- 🐼 PBS Characters
- 🎁 Swag
- 📖 Educational and community resources



CAGT

The first and third Tuesdays of each month at 5:00 pm MDT, Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented, or CAGT, will live stream a 20 – 30 minute presentation with a local or national expert on a topic current and relevant to our GT community. We hope you can tune in live each first and third Tuesday on the CAGT Facebook page to view Conversations with CAGT in real time. You will be able to ask the Conversations with CAGT guest speaker any questions you might have about their session. Please come join us!



Upcoming Conversations

📅 When: August 30th @ 5:00 MDT

✳ Who: Della has served learners of all ages through public education, the nonprofit world, the private sector and as the creative conductor of a startup. She holds a doctorate focused in equity and believes in creating, simplifying and connecting for transformational change.

📄 Title: The Learning Galaxy

Portfolios for universal consideration showcase the strengths, talents and gifts of each learner. By recognizing and interweaving the talents and gifts among us in a learning galaxy, we will empower our future beyond expectations, perceived potential and imagination.

Previous Conversations

📅 When: August 16th

✳ Who: Dr. Karen Arnstein is a consultant, speaker, and author dedicated to helping teachers and school districts identify and serve twice-exceptional learners. She received her doctorate in Curriculum & Instruction in Gifted Education from the University of Denver. Prior to this, she worked with K-12 students and teachers for over a decade. Dr. Arnstein is a core faculty member with Bridges Graduate School of Cognitive Diversity in Education and serves as Secretary of the Board for SENG (Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted).

📄 Title: [The Gifted/2e Journey - The Parent's Perspective](#)

Parents experience multiple stages of grieving when their child is identified as gifted or twice-exceptional (2e) questioning future friendships, relationships, and finding the right educational fit. Recent findings and real examples are explored.

📅 When: August 2nd

✦Who: Mark Hess is President-elect of the Colorado Association for Gifted Students, a board member and the editor of the SENG Library, and is the Gifted Programs Specialist in a large, urban school district in Colorado Springs. He soon will have published nine books for gifted specialists including 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade Gifted Social-Emotional Curriculums and the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade Hands-on Literacy series. As Portable Gifted and Talented, Mark has shared over 25,000 free resources. You can visit his website at www.giftedlearners.org

📖 Title: [I Used to Be Gifted](#)

Yes, you were gifted. You still are. There is no used to be in any definition. Giftedness does not run out; it doesn't have a border; giftedness is a way of being. All of your life you have been thinking things other people did not typically think about, making connections others did not easily make, feeling the world more intensely than others. To you, it just seemed normal . . . because the only head you could see inside of was your own. Have you or your kids ever missed out on a challenge because you were surfing a wave of wonderfulness? Fallen victim to bomb cyclone perfectionism? Tried to win the award for "best normal?" Apologized for doing well? Do you need to slow down, stop feeling so much, stop caring so much? Do you still feel, speak, and touch a poetry of the world that is beautiful and abundant? Join me for a chat about gifted kids, teaching gifted kids, gifted parenting, and ultimately ourselves.

[CAGT Facebook page](#)

["I Used to be Gifted" with Mark Hess](#)

[Gifted Learners - Mark Hess Webiste](#)

["The Gifted/2E Journey - The Parent's Perspective" with Dr. Karen Arnstein](#)

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