

D51 Gifted Education Newsletter

January 2023

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News from our GT Director

Happy 2023! At this point, I am hoping you have had a chance to see or hear about the collaboratively developed [D51 Strategic Plan](#). This plan will be used to guide all D51 work and initiatives from Fall 2022 through Spring 2025. Below are the segments of the full plan ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)):

- [Welcome](#)
- [What we heard](#)
- [Graduate Profile](#)
- [Strategic Focus Areas](#)

- [Prepared and Supported Students](#)
- [Prepared and Supported Staff](#)
- [Engaged and Supportive Community Partners](#)

The D51 GT Department has been digging into this document to define and focus our work. I would love to hear your thoughts, questions, and insights on how this impacts you and your student(s).

Student Spotlight - Scenic Elementary



Bennett Gaumer -- 4th Grader

Bennett Gaumer is a 4th grade student at Scenic Elementary. She especially loves enrichment math as she gets to be challenged. She really loves math algorithms.

She usually does her homework all by herself, but when she gets stuck, her mother will talk her through it. She also loves getting feedback from her teachers so that she remembers to slow down when solving problems. She is very comfortable asking her teacher, Mrs. Galligher, for help.

She loves making and keeping goals. One goal she has is that she always gets her homework done the night before it is due.

All her extracurricular activities happen at school: Lego League, Girls who Code, and Student Council. She also attends extended hours and has friends there.

At home she gets 30 minutes of computer time which she splits between Prodigy, Dreambox, and Lexia. She has to complete her chores of sweeping the kitchen and cleaning the litter box first.

Student Awards -- Wingate Elementary

Elise Donaldson -- 4th Grader

Noetic Learning Math Contest

The Noetic Learning Math Contest (NLMC) is one of the largest math contests in the US for elementary and middle school students. Every year, more than 30,000 students participate in the contest to compete against each other. The goal of the NLMC is to encourage students to excel in math by mastering their problem-solving skills. During the NLMC, students will apply their problem-solving skills along with math concepts learned in the classroom to solve twenty nonroutine math problems that call for creativity, originality, and thinking skills.

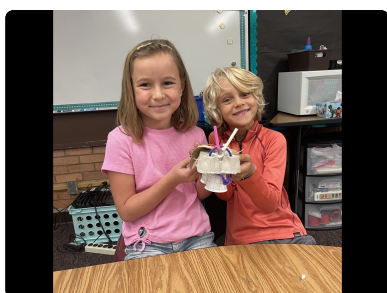


We believe that problem-solving helps students to become better mathematicians, better thinkers, therefore better equipped for advanced STEM learning. The goal of our contest is to develop students' problem-solving skills, to encourage their interest in math, and to inspire them to excel in math.

During the contest, students have 45 minutes (50 minutes online) to solve 20 creative problems independently without a calculator.

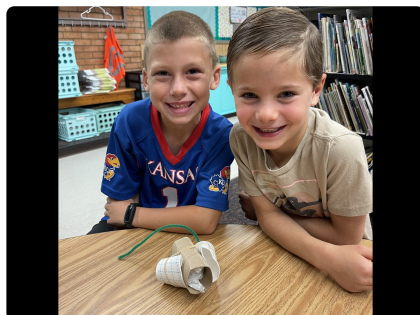
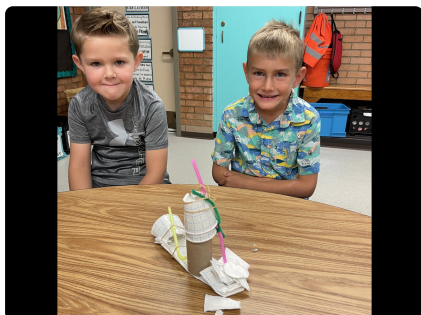
Elise competed in the Noetic Learning Math Contest this year and placed 2nd in the state of Colorado. She was also top 10% in the nation. Way to go, Elise!

Student Work - Taylor Elementary



Getting Creative About CHANGE

Students were given egg cartons, paper cups, straws, napkins, rubber bands, paper towel rolls. The students had to decide how to show change using their simple supplies. Then they all presented what they made.



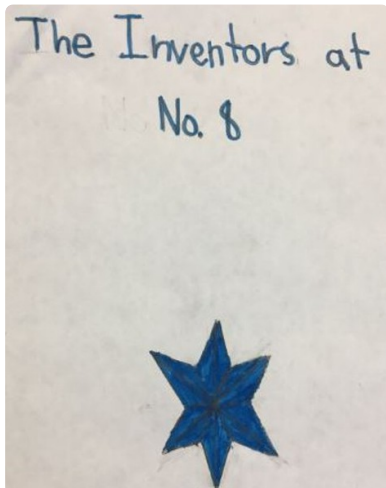
Student Recommendations from Dos Rios Elementary

Reviewed by Gidget White, 5th grade

Inventors at No. 8

by A. M. Morgen

Would you like to read a story about a remarkable adventure and an unforeseen friendship between neighbors? If so this is the book for you. George the Third Lord of Devonshire thought he had a bad luck curse. George worried it would spread if he left his house, so he never went outside. Until one day George's manservant Frobisher was kidnapped by the organization. George set out on a remarkable adventure to find the fabled legend of the Star of Victory to save Frobisher. With his



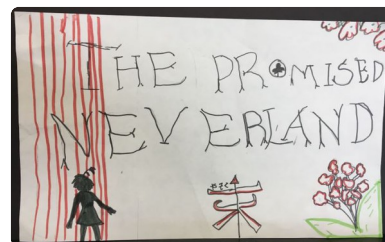
accomplice Ada Byron and two stowaways, Oscar and his friend Ruthie, who is also an orangutan. Ada has invented many things and some have helped on the journey to find the Star of Victory.

I enjoyed this book because it's full of mystery and suspense. Another reason I liked it is that I want to be an engineer when I grow up like the character Ada. I also enjoy stories about dangerous adventures where the main character learns valuable lessons about friendship. The book was so good I was barely able to put it down at night. It kept me up late at night forcing me to keep reading until I couldn't keep my eyes open.

Reviewed by Andreas Torres, 5th grade

THE PROMISED NEVERLAND

By Kaiu Shirai



In the dimension of the Neverland, plant 3 was assigned a new adoption to a new family. In the modern times the door was still open to Neverland. Demons walked the Neverland.

After Norman and Emma tell Don and Gilda the truth about adoption and plant 3, Ray's secret was revealed about plant 3 and Isabella's spy. Now Anne and Nate are one step closer to finding out about the new villain's sister Crone. To help Gilda soon find Conny's toy, Don has to think of a way to tell the other kids about the adoptions and their fake families. While Emma thinks about telling the rest of the older kids the truth, Sister Crone finds her way to plant 3. Will Don and Gilda find out about Sister Crone's challenge?

Learn how these kids deal with sister crone and mother Isabella.

I like this book because it is filled with mysteries and suspense. It also has a really nice storyline that goes with the characters and their actions.



Reviewed by Avagayle P Howard, 5th grade

One Crazy Summer

By: Rita Williams -Garcia

Do you want to read the best historical fiction book ever? At the beginning there were three sisters that were given money to go to Disneyland by their dad. Their mom had left them when they were young. They are going to meet her for the first time in Oakland, California where the mother lived. The three girls were expecting hugs and a warm welcome but that is the opposite of what they got. They had to use their Disneyland money to get food. They got Chinese food every night. They would go down the block to get the Chinese food from Ming's. They ate on the floor every night because the kitchen was off limits. They would go to the Black Panthers Society to eat breakfast and lunch. They also get to learn about black history. The oldest sister named Dalphine was sick of eating the same food every night. So she went to the store to buy food, she marched to the kitchen door and told her mom that she did not care what her mom was hiding in there and that she was going to come cook a decent meal whether she likes it or not. As she cooked in the kitchen her relationship with

her mother improved. To find out what Dalphine's mom is hiding you will have to read this wonderful book.

I enjoyed this book because it has a lot of twists and turns. It is a story with a lot of emotion which makes it interesting. I really hope that you read this book. It is very good and I think you will enjoy it as I did. This book has won two awards such as Newberry Honor Novel Award and the Coretta Scott King Author Award.

Review by Conal McLain, 5th grade

Hollow Knight

Video Game Developed and published by Team Cherry



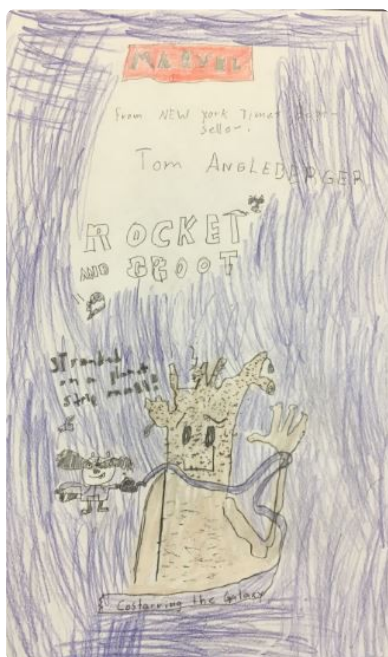
Hollow Knight is a game where you explore and have different abilities to move around the world. Also, you can unlock new parts of the world on your map. Another thing is you can get abilities by defeating bosses with your sword or you can find other abilities around the world. The Money in Hollow Knight is called geo. You can get geo by defeating bosses or bugs that try to kill you all around the world. You can spend your geo at shops around the world to help you win the game. The ultimate goal is to defeat all the bosses. The three main reasons I like Hollow Knight is because of all the places that you can go around the world. The art work has a lot of detail and animation .Also the game challenges your reflex.

If you like riddles and challenging yourself and then Hollow Knight is the game for you. It is on nintendo switch,ps4 and xbox, for \$15.99.

Reviewed by Carter Gleave, 4th grade

Rocket and Groot

By Tom Angleberger



Rocket and Groot are on a spaceship getting attacked by space peranas when their spaceship malfunctions. They crash on the planet Strip Mall. They are stranded on this strange planet trying to find the parts they need to fix the ship and they come across 99 cent stores and they come across 98 cent stores and so on. Then they come across robot monsters in every single store they go to find parts. Rocket has a captain's log to keep track of what they do. So, with that being said, if you would like to help Rocket and Groot get back into space then this is a good book for you. Come check this book out at your local library.

I like this book because every store they go to they always have to fight new robots and monsters. I think the funniest robot monster is the toilet because Rocket is going to the bathroom and the toilet is sucking Rocket down the drain.

I was reading Rocket and Groot and I did not want to put the book down because it was so entertaining. You can never predict what was going to happen next. Find out how Rocket and Groot get out of hard situations.

Reviewed by Dairon Caro Gaspar, 3rd Grade

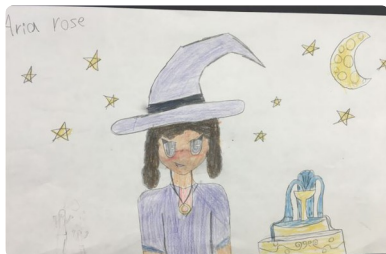
Midnight Arcade: A play-your-way Adventure

Written by Gabe Soria

When you start to read the book it starts off where you and your friends go to a mall called "Fair Oak Mall". It was closed in 1990 and you and your friends are going to go at midnight. But all your friends chickened out so now they're waiting outside the mall. So you're the only person that will be going in while your friends are staying outside waiting for you to get out. And while you're walking through the mall you see a neon light that's still somehow functioning. While you get close you see that it's called Midnight Arcade and while you're looking through the arcade for some reason you see two new games. The games are called "Space Battle" and "Crypt Quest" and while you turn around and look, you see a random person appear out of thin air with Midnight Arcade merchandise and glowing eyes. Right after that, he gives you a Midnight Arcade token and when you enter the token in "Space Battles" or "Crypt Quest" everything crumbles then you're teleported in the game. If you want to see what happens you're going to have to read the book.



I love this book because it has cool pictures that really shows some action. What I like about the story is that there's always an answer for every move you make. Midnight Arcade is really entertaining and makes you forget that you're in the classroom or wherever you are reading this book.



Reviewed By Aria Bendetti, 3rd Grade

Witchlings

Book by Claribel.A.Ortega

In the book witchlings, the main character, Seven, has come of age for the black moon ceremony. The Black Moon ceremony is where all witchlings will get sorted into their covens. A coven is a section or a house. Seven really does not want to be a spare. A spare is when you don't fit into any coven so you stay a witchling for the rest of your life. I will not spoil if she gets into a coven or is a spare. My mom knows the author of this book which I think is really cool. It's a good book and I recommend it if you like Harry Potter. You can look on google and search "Witchlings" and it will come up with the book. I like sitting on my beanbag chair and drinking hot tea while reading this book. I really really recommend this book so please read it.

Movie review by Claire Gershon, 3rd grade

The Princess and the Frog

View on Disney Plus

The Princess and the Frog starts off with Tiana's Mom reading a story. The book that Tiana's mom is reading turns into the movie. A girl found a frog and she kissed the frog and it turned into a human. Then after the story Tiana went home and made really good soup that's called Gumbo. Tiana's family shared it with their neighborhood. Tiana grew up and worked at a cafe. Then, she went home after



work. She saw a Frog and the frog touched her. Then Tiana turned into a Frog. Next, a dog started chasing her and the frog. Tiana and the frog grabbed onto a balloon and floated to the forest. Watch the movie to find out what happens. These are reasons why I like it; it is really funny and entertaining, and is fun to watch because a lot of surprising things happen.



Reviewed by Ellianna Yslas, 3rd grade

The Rescuers

Walt Disney Productions

In the movie, *The Rescuers*, two mice go on a mission to save a six year old little girl from an evil woman named Medusa. The little girl was up for adoption so Medusa adopted her. Medusa uses the little girl to get gems. Medusa wants the special ruby to become rich because she lives in a big abandoned boat. Medusa has two guard crocodiles that are very mean. if you want to, you can watch it on Disney.

I like this movie because it is funny ,exciting and cool.

Movie review by Miyah Layng, 3rd grade

The Bad Guys

by DreamWorks Animation Studios

The movie is made with computer animations and begins with the bad guys stealing money robbing banks stealing the most expensive things. The bad guy characters are Mr. Wolf, Mr. Pirana, Mr. Shark and Mr. Snake. Professor Marmalade puts a curse on the guinea pigs. The curse turns the guinea pigs' eyes green and they start attacking people. and it's up to the bad guys to save the guinea pigs. It is a good movie because it is funny and the characters are weird because they are talking animals.



Reviewed by Raylenn Gallegos, 3rd grade

Alice's Wonderland Bakery

Television Series on Disney Plus

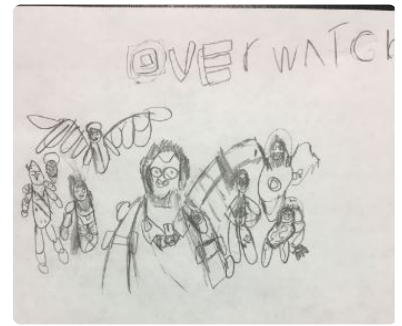
Alice is a baker and bakes yummy foods. She also went to the Princess' birthday and messed up the Princess' cake. In another episode Alice is playing musical chairs and a rabbit is playing his trumpet. They play a few rounds, so when the rabbit plays his trumpet the Queen comes and says that the rabbit is in a music performance that night. The rabbit was so scared he ran into a bush maze and started crying. You have to watch the show to find out what happens next. You can watch it on Disney Plus.

I like the show because it has a cute introduction. Also, the characters are so funny. I really enjoy the music in this show.

Reviewed Zane Lucas, 3rd grade

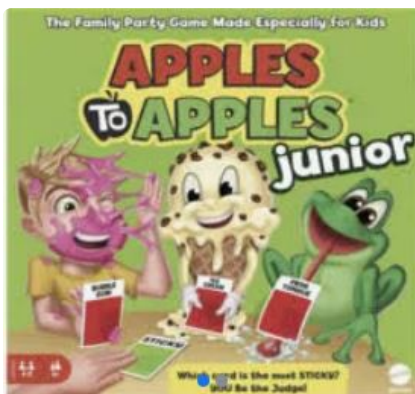
Overwatch

This game is good because it's online. There's two teams. The first one has to escort the truck or conquer both of the circles. The other team has to stop you and your team from escorting the truck or conquering circles. There are three types of heroes to choose to play the round: The three heroes are: Tank, Damage and Healer. You and your team have a truck that you have to get to the other team's base. You can chat with people while playing a round. You can buy it on xbox for \$39.99 or you can find it on sale. It's a good game to play after a long day and the second game is almost here. I also like the characters and how they all have different abilities that you can choose from depending on what you like best. I insist you play this game.

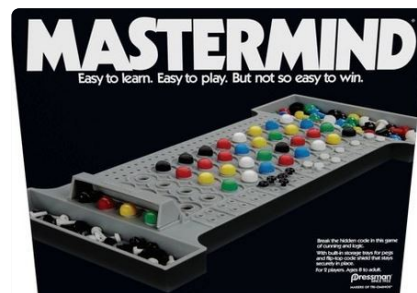


Recommendations from Mr. Gregerson at Broadway & Thunder Mountain Elementary

There are many great educational games. Here are some common ones that have been a success in my classroom. **Chess** really makes them have to think in multiple ways and one of the kids' favorites.



Apples to Apples Junior
Apples to Apples Junior is a great way for kids to think about a concept from different angles and from different people's perspectives to figure out what card would most likely be picked.



Mastermind
Mastermind is a great game for deductive reasoning.

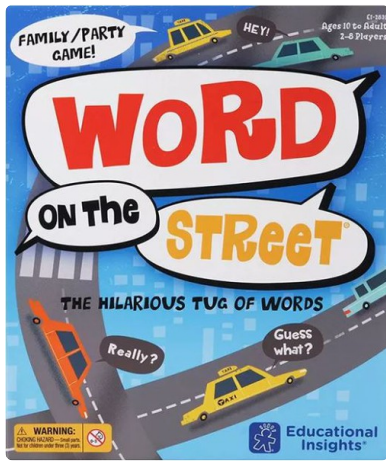


Hedbanz
Head Bands is an excellent game for my primary grade students to think of questions and deductive reasoning.

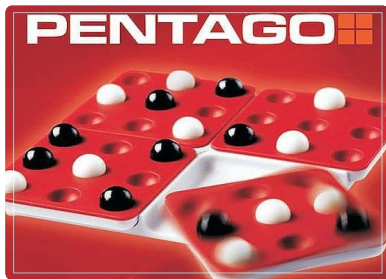
Here are two lesser known but excellent games

Word on the Street

During the game, each turn the kids pick a card with a category or idea and the kids have to come up with a word that fits into it. Two kids can play against each other or multiple players can get in two teams. The catch is that they have to spell out the word in order to get as many consonant



letters as possible in a tug of war match. Once they move a consonant over 3 places to them, they get to keep the letter for that game. The kids can decide how many letters it takes to win. It gets tricky when many of the consonants are no longer in play and you have to come up with a word that fits a category and has some of the remaining letters OR coming up with a word that gets some letters back to the center that the opposing team is about to win.



Pentago:

It is literally Tic Tac Toe with a twist. The goal is to get 5 marbles in a row. However the board is broken down into 4 independently rotating squares. Each turn, a player has to put a marble in a spot and turn one of the four boards 90 degrees. It develops and challenges nonverbal visual spatial skills and combines that with forming game strategies.



Navigating the Challenge Program

Information Meetings
2023-2024 School Year

“Some students require the climate, interaction, and independence found in a program designed especially for gifted students.”

-Autonomous Learner Model



The Challenge Program at East Middle School is a district-wide program for academically gifted middle school students. After giving an overview of the program, students and staff will be available for questions. Check out [The Challenge Program](#) website for more information.

We highly recommend all parents and students attend a meeting.

Where: East Middle School Cafeteria, 830 Gunnison Ave

When: Monday, January 30 at 4:30 and 6 pm and Tuesday, January 31 at 4:30 and 6 pm

Who: Students interested in applying and parents

Applications will be available starting January 30. **Applications will be accepted until 3 pm on February 28, 2023.**

Contact Tina Sleigh at tina.sleigh@d51schools.org with questions.



Academics



Friendships



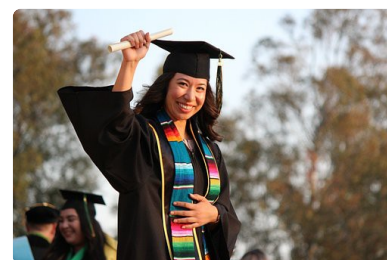
Exploration

School Spotlight -- Palisade High School

International Baccalaureate and Diploma Programme Applications Now Open

Palisade High School offers the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme (DP) and is the only school in the valley to offer this opportunity to students who apply. The IB Programme is recognized and respected by the world's leading universities. The

Diploma Programme offers students access to a wide range of college level courses throughout their junior and senior years of high school. The programme aims to develop students who have excellent breadth and depth of knowledge and the ability to flourish physically, intellectually, emotionally and ethically.



For more information on the IB Programme at Palisade High School please visit

The application for current 8th Grade students interested in joining the IB Programme at PHS is now open and will close on January 27th. The application and information can be found at Palisadeib.org under "Interested Students."



Scholarship Application

22-23 GT Scholarship Application.pdf

[Download](#)

85.9 KB

22-23 GT Spanish Scholarship Application.pdf

[Download](#)

74.1 KB

Facebook

This group is to support Westernslope Parents of Gifted & Talented and 2E kids.

We share hope, empowerment, ideas, opportunities, and overall support each other.



Peter Pan is Flying to the Avalon in March

Grand Junction based professional ballet company, Colorado West Performing Arts Company (CWPAC), offers you the chance to bring your family and friends to Peter Pan.



Join Wendy, John, and Michael as they soar into the night sky with Peter, to a magical land of mermaids and fairy dust, where children can fly and adventures happen every day. But beware – danger is just around the corner; Captain Hook and the pirates are looking for revenge and Peter Pan is top of their list.

For more information visit [Colorado West Performing Arts Company](https://www.cwpac.com).



Conversations With CAGT

1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month at 5:00 pm MST on [Facebook Live](#)

For our first CWC of the new year we were joined by **Todd Stanley** on **Tuesday, Jan. 3rd**. Todd shared his session, ***How Do We Motivate Gifted Children?*** It was VERY informative! Todd says that we often teach under the assumption that all gifted kids love to learn. While this is true of any child, they may not want to learn what it is you want them to. He shared what can we do in order to motivate gifted students to take this journey with us. His talk also discussed five areas to consider and by doing these, you will give yourself a better chance of motivating a gifted child. If you missed this CWC, it is totally worth watching or any other session you may have missed you can view them on our Resource page at www.coloradogifted.org.

Our next CWC of the new year will be on **January 17th** when we will be joined by **Dr. Matt Zakreski**. "Dr. Matt" will share his session ***Understanding Sensory Processing in Neurodivergent Learners***. Many neurodivergent (gifted, Autistic, 2E, ADHD, etc.) learners have unique and challenging sensory needs that are different than what neurotypical children present with. Where do these differences come from? And what can we do about them? This presentation will outline the relevant neuropsychological differences between neurotypical and neurodivergent learners and how those differences manifest in and outside of the classroom. Then we will talk about ways to manage sensory needs and how to manage them safely. We hope to see you then or if you can't make it live, you can subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#) or visit our webpage at www.coloradogifted.org for all of our CWCs and other great resources.

Other virtual events presented by CAGT

"Encourage, Enhance and Expand Executive Functions in Your Child:"

Presentation by Susanne Keeley

Virtual presentation hosted by Adams 12 GT Parent Group

Monday, January 9th at 6:00pm

[Click here for more information and to register.](#)

GT Parent Night on Zoom: Perfectionism with Lisa Van Gemert

Virtual presentation hosted by Poudre School District

Tuesday, January 10th at 6:00pm

[Click here for more information.](#)

"New to GT: What Families Need to Know"

Virtual webinar hosted by Jefferson County Association for Gifted Children (JAGC)

Wednesday, January 18th at 7:00pm

[Click here for more information and to register](#)

Born to Draw: The Development of Artistically Gifted Children

Virtual webinar hosted by Renzulli Center for Creativity, Gifted Education and Talent Development

Thursday, January 19th at 8:00pm

[Click here for more information and to register](#)

The Age of Technology and the Arts: Innovation in Content-based Curriculum

Legislative Day

CAGT Legislative Day is Back in Person and NOW OPEN!



After two years of hosting this event virtually, we are excited to now be back in person for our [2023 Legislative Day at the Capitol!](#) Our Legislative Committee has created a one of a kind experience for 9th-12th grade students who are passionate about issues facing their community, county, and our state. CAGT is providing students the opportunity to apply to shadow a legislator and experience the legislative process firsthand. Students can [click here](#) to get more information about the day, the criteria needed to apply and to registration. Registration is now open! Again, we are so excited to be back at the Capitol and hope to see you there!

Rocky Mountain PBS Kids

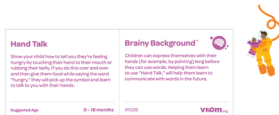
Could specialty driving services be the newest form of school transportation?



by Sonia Gutierrez

Published on December 6, 2022

DENVER – School bus driver shortages are a big problem just about everywhere. One company hopes to help school districts by providing specialty driving services. Read the article [HERE](#).



Vroom Tips for Families

Available in multiple languages, [Vroom's](#) print-at-home science-based tips and tools can help families turn shared, everyday moments into Brain Building Moments.

The American Academy of Pediatrics updated safe sleep recommendations in June 2022. Here's what you need to know.



by Kathy Kinsner and Sarah S. MacLaughlin

Here's the latest news on sleep safety for young children.

- **Babies up to 6 months old should sleep in the same room with their parents** in a crib, bassinet, or bedside sleepers—a three-sided crib that attaches to the parents' bed—and always on a flat and firm surface. Experts say any type of infant seating—including car seats and swings—should not be used for sleep. The AAP also says it's best not to hold your baby while they sleep if there is any possibility you may fall asleep too.
- **Babies should sleep alone in an empty crib.** No blankets, stuffed animals or loveys, pillows, foam wedges or crib bumpers. In other words, the crib or bassinet should have only one thing inside—a sleeping baby!
- **Babies should sleep on their backs.** Research shows that this is the safest position for sleep. Foam positioners and wedges that claim to keep babies in "safer" positions are not

recommended. Once babies are able to roll over on their own, you can allow them to choose their own sleep position—backs or bellies.

- **Babies should always sleep in a smoke-free environment.** Smoke in the house (or even on adults' clothing) can cause irritation and breathing problems.
- Some research suggests **breast milk** during a baby's first two months helps **reduce the risk of SIDS**.
- **How much baby gear is enough?**
 - You might choose a sleep sack— a zip-on blanket that will keep your baby warm without the danger of suffocation from a loose blanket.
 - A baby monitor can be helpful if your baby sleeps in a separate room.
 - The American Academy of Pediatrics also recommends against the use of other devices that claim to reduce the risk of SIDS or other sleep-related deaths.

For more information on safe sleep, visit the [National Institute of Health](#) or [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) websites.

D51 Gifted & Talented Department



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Brandy Headlee

Brandy is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters