

Harlan County

Gifted & Talented

Newsletter

Winter 2021



Teacher Resources

How do you know which students in your classroom have been identified as gifted/talented?

- Use Infinite Campus to see the flagged GT students and read the service plan for each GT student.

Links for Resources to Use With Gifted Students

- [Gifted Education Strategies](#)
- [Classroom Strategies and Methodology](#)
- [Unwrapping the Gifted](#)

Parent Resources

Books

Living With Intensity by Susan Daniels
Make Your Worrier Into A Warrior by Dan Peters

Why Smart Kids Worry by Allison Edwards
When Gifted Kids Don't Have All The Answers by Jim Delisle

Articles online @ <http://www.byrdseed.com/parents/>

A Gifted Student...

Asks the questions. Is highly curious. Is mentally and physically involved. Has silly, weird ideas. Plays around, yet tests well. Discusses in detail, elaborates. Is beyond the group. Shows strong feelings and opinions. Already knows. Constructs abstractions. Prefers adults. Draws inferences. Initiates projects. Is intense. Creates new designs. Enjoys learning. Manipulates information. Is a good guesser. Is keenly observant. Is highly self-critical. Thrives on complexity. Invents.

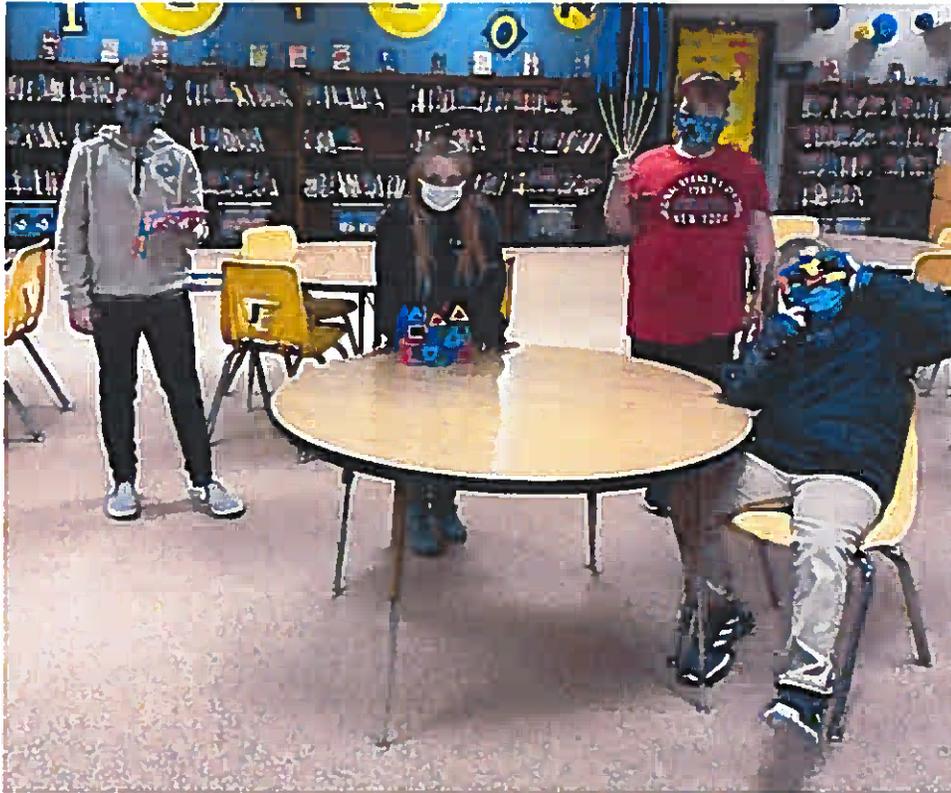
From the Desk of Jeanne Lee, District Gifted Coordinator

February is Gifted Education month in Kentucky where schools and communities celebrate our brightest and most talented students.

It is our mission in Harlan County Schools to find and provide services to every gifted and talented student in our district. Students can be identified as gifted and/or talented as early as 4th grade or in any grade thereafter, in one of five categories: General Intellectual, Specific Academic Aptitude (Reading, Math, Science, or Social Studies), Leadership, Creative or Divergent Thinking, or the Visual and Performing Arts (Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Art). Students in the primary grades can be identified as potentially gifted and offered differentiated services through the 3rd grade year. Primary Talent Pool services expire at the end of 3rd grade. Once a student is formally identified as gifted in any category, they remain classified as gifted in that category until they graduate high school.

Upon formal identification, gifted and talented students are categorized as "exceptional learners" and as such are required to have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) that addresses the student's interests, needs, and abilities. We call the gifted IEP the Gifted Student Service Plan or GSSP and revise that plan annually as the child grows and his or her needs, interest, and abilities may change. We love to have input from parents of our gifted kids because they know their children best.

Twice a year we notify parents of their gifted student's progress through the Gifted Student Progress Report. Parents can receive that report via mail, your child's backpack, e-mail, or at a person-to-person meeting.

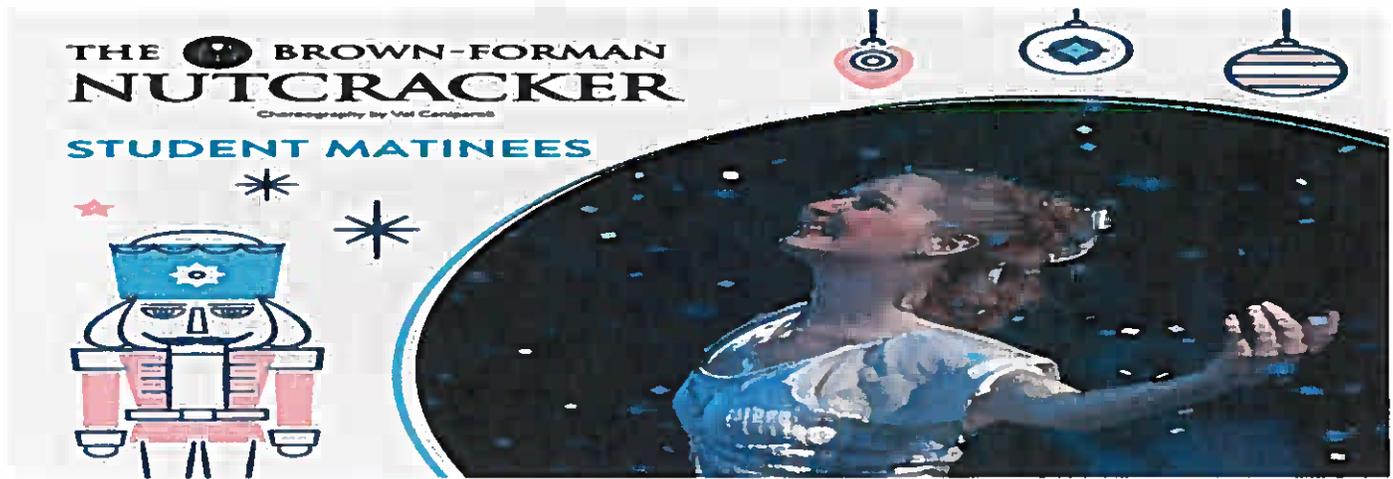


The Gifted and Talented students in 4th and 5th grades at Evarts Elementary School, challenged themselves to think out-side the box in the library with makerspace during target interventions. Students used their knowledge of STEM to build using Strawbees, Fiddle-sticks, PowerClicks, and Legos to create original creations. Students left to right Josiah Smith, Shaylee Fields, Salem Smith, and Isaiah Taylor.



Students from James A Cawood Elementary toured WYMT. They also participated in a living wax museum of presidents and first ladies, which they completed as a project and presented to the whole school to tour. They also performed Seuss stories for Dr. Seuss Day.





The Nutcracker Came to Harlan County

Students across the county in the gifted and talented program were recently afforded the opportunity to watch a virtual presentation of *The Brown-Forman Nutcracker* ballet to help celebrate the Christmas season. Students were able to watch at their convenience during a 5 day window via a live link. The ballet, performed by The Louisville Ballet, was a uniquely Louisville telling of the classic story of Marie, her Nutcracker Prince, and their journey to the world of the Sugar Plum Fairy. It was filled with magic, artistry, awe-inspiring sets and costumes, and distinctly Louisville touches. This ballet gave our students an opportunity to experience a cultural event that is not readily available in our area. We would like to thank all of the sponsors who made this digital broadcast possible for our students at no cost to the district.

Coming Soon Rosspoint Elementary will hosting an artist-in-residence this spring.

Students in grades 7-12 will be participating in the Pulse of Surgery program hosted virtually by the Kentucky Science Center. This program will allow the students to get look inside the operating room by viewing a real-time heart surgery streamed to HCHS from U of L Health-Jewish Hospital. Pulse of Surgery is a one-of-a-kind experience that gives participants an up-close and personal view of the scope of careers in medicine, healthy living, and human physiology.

Meet Your School's Gifted and Talented Point of Contact

Black Mountain– Trish Crider

Cawood– Sheba Ramsey

Cumberland– Loreyn Eldredge

Evarts– Jean James

Green Hills– Megan Miracle

James A. Cawood– Emily Jones

HCHS– Kim Howard and David Dixon

Rosspoint– Terry Kelly

Wallins– Janet Howard

Gifted and Talented Services

The Harlan County School District formally identifies students in grades 4-12 for participation in the District's Gifted and Talented Program. Students in the primary program who display gifted or talented characteristics shall be selected through an informal process, be placed in a talent pool, and receive services that allow continuous progress.

Gifted Student



MYTH: A student is either gifted or not. Giftedness is not something that can be developed.

Truth: Giftedness CAN be developed. Some students come to school with a rich background of prior experiences. Children from disadvantaged backgrounds often come to school without exposure to these experiences. School provides opportunity for a child's potential gifts to be nurtured and developed.

MYTH: Gifted students are not at risk. If they are actually gifted, they can get by on their own.

Truth: Gifted students are "exceptional learners" and require services directed toward their interests, needs, and abilities. Gifted students may become bored, underachieve, act out, and even drop out without appropriate engagement and challenge.

MYTH: If a child is gifted in one area he/she is gifted in all areas.

Truth: There are five different formal categories of gifted education. A student may be identified in only one category or in some cases more than one. A student can even be twice-exceptional by having a deficit in one area and a gift in another.