

Saturday Sessions and Descriptions

Session A 8:00 – 8:50

The Mediation Process
Dixie Trinen & Lori Shafer
Office of Dispute Resolution

U. S. Board Room

When disagreements arise between families and schools regarding gifted education, several options are open to try to resolve differences. One option is mediation. At this session, discussion will include the mediation process, how to access the mediation process, what to expect at mediation, the benefits of mediation, and the success of mediation. Questions and interactive discussion is encouraged. This session is geared towards parents and administrators.

Invent Now
Susan Clark
Camp Invention

Metropolitan A

Discover a new approach to STEM education in the elementary classroom that weaves science content into cross-curriculum themes while meeting curriculum standards. Participants will receive a brief overview of the non-profit elementary STEM enrichment programs offered through Invent Now in partnership with the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Participants will try a hands-on activity from our INNOVATE curriculum; building a motorized pet to take home that demonstrates the teaching of motors and circuits.

Powerful Strategies to Enhance Learning of Gifted and Highly Able Students
Nathan Levy
Elite Educational Resources

Bridgeport

This workshop explores numerous ways to reach gifted learners in challenging ways. The objective is to have participants leave with a variety of new strategies and specific ideas to help pupils become better and creative and critical thinkers. A variety of successful teaching techniques will be shared as well as numerous writing and thinking activities.

Discover the Twice Exceptional Learner
Melissa Bilash and Erin Coleman, Esq
Advocacy and Consulting for Education

Brady Ballroom

As a seminar on twice exceptional learners, this session will present information on who qualifies as twice exceptional, what the common characteristics of these learners are, methods for identifying these learners and appropriate programming options.

Chapter 16 for Parents

Marilyn Thomas and Linda Deal

Leland

Chapter 16 is the PA law governing gifted education. This session will review the key provisions in the law that parents need to be familiar with when working with school districts. Led by a parent advocate and experienced teacher of the gifted, this session will discuss important timelines, gifted identification, developing GIEPs, and the procedural safeguards parents can employ when the district says "no."

Session B 10:10 – 11:10**Interpreting Above Level Test Scores**

Dr. Mary Ann Swiatek

Metropolitan A

Understanding the meaning of score reports from standardized tests is difficult enough when the test-taker is a typical student. When the test-taker is gifted, those reports can be even more confusing. There are significant limits to the information about a gifted student that can be obtained from achievement tests that are routinely administered at school. "Above-level" testing refers to the practice of giving achievement tests designed for older students to younger, gifted students. It provides much-needed information that can help in developing accurate Present Levels of Educational Performance (PLEP) for an IEP, which in turn can guide decisions about appropriate educational placements. This session will provide you with information about above-level testing, including process (how to do it), product (the information you'll get), and applications (what to do with the information you get).

Gen X Parents: We Want to be More Involved

Dr. Ellen Cavanaugh

Beaver County STEM Education Advocacy Coalition

Bridgeport

As the parent of a gifted student, Dr. Cavanaugh volunteered to coach her son's first Lego League team. The experience brought her in touch with other parents willing to commit huge amounts of time, expertise and financial resources to provide their children with enriching and collaborative educational opportunities. This workshop will include tools to better utilize the human resource of parents within safe environment restrictions and educational

structures. Dr. Cavanaugh brings over 20 years of experience empowering parent volunteers in youth ministry settings.

Experimental Summer Program Opportunities

U. S. Board Room

Karen Narkevic

University of Pittsburgh Health Career Scholars Academy
PA School for Global Entrepreneurship

The University of Pittsburgh Health Career Scholars Academy and the Pennsylvania School for Global Entrepreneurship (formally a Governor's School of Excellence) offer gifted high school students a challenging and enriching environment for learning, practice, and personal growth while experiencing a unique summer residential program. The curricular expectations of each program exceed the baselines of standards based learning, while the residential experiences meet the social-emotional needs of gifted learners. Grounded in the principle of providing gifted learners a residential enrichment opportunity, the programs are as unique as the careers addressed. Learn more from program administrators and program alumni during this session.

Session B – C Extended Session 10:10 – 12:00

Kevin Honeycutt

Leland

Join me for this fast moving, hands-on two hour session where we'll dig into project based learning and do a real unit ourselves! We will access many exciting free tools we can use in schools and expand the idea of teachers as explorers, guiding students to tame the tools we can use in education.

Mock GIEP Meeting Ballroom

Brady

Melissa Bilash
Advocacy and Consulting for Education

The session will begin with a mock presentation of a GIEP meeting where the OOWA Assessment will be applied to determine if grade skipping would be appropriate. Mock GIEP team members will include the presenter as an advocate, the parent, a teacher of the gifted, a school psychologist and a Local

Educational Administrator. A discussion will follow on how to advocate at a GIEP meeting for necessary services.

Session C
11:10 – 12:00

Networking Session for Homeschooling and Cyber-schooling

Bridgeport

Charlton Wolfgang

Drexel University Doctoral Candidate

This informal networking session will provide current homeschooling and/or cyber-schooling parents as well as parents interested in learning more about these options. There will be an opportunity to share ideas and ask questions. This session will be especially useful to parents who would like to network with other families.

**Non-discriminatory Assessment Approaches for
Under-Represented Students in Gifted Education Programs**

U. S. Board Room

Lori Bergey & Abby Alexander

School District of Lancaster

Students of diverse populations are under-represented across gifted education programs. Traditional intelligence tests may not be best-suited to use with culturally and linguistically diverse students; however, the educational community's reliance on intelligence tests is not diminishing. Given this commitment to testing, we will look at ways to increase the educational and diagnostic usefulness of tests through the implementation of non-biased or nondiscriminatory assessment approaches. Focus of this presentation is based on the premise that nondiscriminatory assessment increases the representation of diverse students in gifted education. Participants will leave with assessment strategies to utilize when screening diverse students for gifted education programs.

Charting Dangerous GIEP Waters by Cultivating New Partnerships

Beckie Lacey and Judith Quigley
Lacey-Quigley Consultants

Metropolitan A

The annual GIEP conference can be an intimidating, confrontational and frustrating time for all parties. Conversely, it could be a productive, collaborative and meaningful opportunity to build consensus to effectively plan for a gifted student's educational future. Creating and building partnerships among the GIEP team members is vital to establishing a mutually beneficial environment for the gifted student, his/her parents, teaching staff and school district administration. Join Beckie Lacey, 3 decade veteran public school teacher of the gifted, and Judith Quigley, successful business women and mother of 5 gifted and talented children, as they share their unique journey. They forged a partnership as parent and teacher to meet the needs of the gifted children they shared. From both their differing perspectives and roles in the GIEP and implementation process, Lacey and Quigley will present tools, techniques and answers to questions which confound both the parental and educator sides of GIEP development. Practical, low cost and consensus building suggestions will be offered to those seeking services for their special children/students without law suits as well as real-life scenarios to guide parents and district representatives while trying to meet the needs of both the gifted and talented.