



Thursday Schedule

7:00 A.M. – 8:00 A.M.

Registration

8:00 AM – 8:30AM

Welcome by President of PAGE

8:45 – 11:15

AM Sessions Start

Session A: Administrative Strand Session

**This session will have two shorter presentations by two different presenters*

1. Moving Your Gifted Program from Nothing to Something

Kimberly Schlemmer

Session Description: It is possible to move your gifted programming from nothing to something in just a year or two! In this session learn how the Red Lion Area School District ambitiously explored successful models, realigned curriculum, provided staff development, offered community outreach, and initiated partnerships to best serve the gifted students in our school district. It is possible to go from nothing to something in a relatively short period of time!

Presenter Information: Kimberly Schlemmer has been an educator and school administrator for over 30 years in Lancaster and York County schools. She is currently serving the Red Lion Area School District as the Assistant Superintendent and Supervisor of Gifted Programming.

2. The State of Advocacy for Gifted Education in PA & Beyond

Nanda Mitra-Itle, Kali Fedor & Linda Deal

Session Description: This session will inform the participants on the current status of advocacy efforts for gifted education support at the state and national levels. The session will include a discussion surrounding the structure a non-profit organization utilizes to manage advocacy efforts at multiple efforts across different stakeholders. Participants attending this session will learn...

- How to define advocacy o Important case law relating to gifted
- Differences between the PA regulations for gifted versus special education
- How to effectively advocate on the district, state, and national levels for gifted education

- The next steps they can take for gifted advocacy – Advocacy Take-home Toolkit

Presenter Information: Nanda Mitra-Itle, NCSP, ABD is a school psychologist in the Ephrata Area School District and Adjunct Professor at Millersville University. Mrs. Mitra-Itle attended Elizabethtown College, earning a Bachelor’s degree. She completed her Master’s degree and school psychology certification through Millersville University. Mrs. Mitra-Itle and attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania where she earned her ABD doctoral school psychology in Education.

Kali Fedor currently works as a full-time instructor in the Department of Exceptionality Programs at Bloomsburg University. Previously, she was a Graduate Program Coordinator for Wilkes University and oversaw several programs that include Special Education (PreK-8 & 7-12) and Autism & Gifted Letters of Endorsement. Prior to Wilkes University, she worked for Bloomsburg University teaching pre-service undergraduate education students. Kali has worked in various K-12 positions, both regular and special education placements in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Arizona.

Session B: New Teacher Strand

Help! I’m New to Gifted Education

Mike Zwanch & Douglas Wmelsdorf

Session Description: Are you newly assigned to a role as gifted education support teacher in your district/school? Are you a district administrator or school psychologists in a new position that oversees gifted education? This presentation is designed to help new gifted education support teachers and professional staff navigate the resources available through the PA Gifted Liaison Network. This network, made up of representatives from almost every intermediate unit across the state, help support the efforts of local gifted education support teachers offering professional development and technical assistance related to gifted education. This presentation is designed to help new teachers locate resources and materials as well as provide professional development opportunities through the network.

Presenter Information:

Douglas Womelsdorf & Mike Zwanch are curriculum specialists at NEIU 19. The coordinate and deliver professional development related to gifted education to the twenty schools in their intermediate unit region. Douglas has experience in K-12 curriculum (specifically science) and works as a gifted liaison for his intermediate unit and Michael was a former gifted education teacher, gifted services coordinator, and now serves as a liaison for his intermediate unit.

Session C: Testing & Identification Strand

Underserved Gifted Kids and MTSS for Identification

Nanda Itle & Dr. Jessica Dirsmith (Tentative)

Session Description: The increase in the number of students who are underserved (i.e. English Language Learners, twice exceptional learners, culturally diverse learners, and economically disadvantaged learners) and their underrepresentation in the gifted population indicate a greater

need to determine and advocate for best practices in gifted assessment, identification and retention. The trend of school systems to implement a Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) that includes high quality academic and behavioral instruction and intervention is a perfect solution. This presentation will examine the factors contributing to the under-representation of these diverse students in gifted programs through the analysis of the identification process and MTSS. Presentation topics include: Description of the existing gifted assessment practices, factors perpetuating the under-identification problem, and best assessment practices for identifying gifted students of diversity and the role of school psychologists. This session is intended to provide participants with a greater understanding of the needs of underserved gifted students, processes and procedures for implementing MTSS in systems in order to better identify underserved gifted population and practical tips for practitioners.

Presenter Information:

Nanda Mitra-Itle, MS, NCSP is a school psychologist in the Ephrata Area School District and adjunct professor at Millersville University. Mrs. Mitra-Itle attended Elizabethtown College, earning a Bachelor's degree. She completed her Masters degree and school psychology certification through Millersville University. Mrs. Mitra-Itle currently attends Indiana University of Pennsylvania where she is earning her doctoral school psychology in Education. Mrs. Mitra-Itle has presented at various conferences including: Pennsylvania Association for Gifted Education, Pennsylvania State Educational Association, The Council for Exceptional Children, Association for School Psychologist in Pennsylvania, National Association of School Psychologists, Intermediate Unit 13, Pennsylvania Association of Gifted Education, and within other school district. Areas of research interest include but are not limited to: Gifted students and underserved students such as culturally and linguistically diverse, twice exceptional, and economically disadvantaged.

Session D: Hands-on Strand

Top Tech Tools and Tips to Engage Student in Learning, Organize Your Data, and Learn More About Your Students!

Dr. Katie Leach

Session Description: Technology can open a window to the world and to a vast amount of information for you and your students! Technology can help you learn more about your students, their strengths, interests and dreams for their future! Come to this three-part session to help you engage students in learning in your classroom with technology, and help organize the information you find to present it to your students! Plus we will look at tools you can use to help you get to know the strengths and interests of each student with just a few clicks on your computer! Although not essential, it would be helpful to create a Google email account (gmail) before the session!

Presenter Information:

Dr. Katie Leach is currently serving as the Gifted Support Teacher, since 2002 in grades K-12, and coordinator of the online program at Weatherly Area School District. She is also an adjunct professor at Wilkes University for Gifted Letter of Endorsement and Instructional Media programs.

Session E: Teaching Best Practices Strand - *Secondary Focus*

Nothing is Impossible: Design Thinking for Future-Possible!

Session Description: "Nothing is impossible!" is a phrase often heard in today's society. And while it is motivational in theory, how can we get Gifted and Talented students to not only subscribe to this idea, but also produce tangible, forward-thinking results to current, real-world problems? Come participate in a project-based, fast-paced workshop, using Design Thinking (Discovery, Interpretation, Ideation, Experimentation, Evolution) to change your and your students' mindset from "impossible" to "future-possible!"

Presenter Information: Hillary Jade has been a Program Director and Site Director with Summer Institute for the Gifted (SIG), a program of The National Society for the Gifted and Talented, since 2012. During the non-summer months, Hillary organizes operational and logistical aspects, as well as recruits instructors for academic courses, for SIG summer programs across the country. During the summer, she serves as the Site Director for SIG hosted at Princeton University. She also enjoys presenting at Gifted/Talented and leadership conferences across the country and has recently completed her M.Sc. in Camp Administration and Leadership.

11:30 – 12:30

Lunch – Grab & Go

12:45 – 3:15

PM Sessions Start

Session A: Administrative Strand Session

Gifted Law

Andrew Faust

Session Description: *Coming Soon*

Presenter Information: Andrew Faust is a widely-recognized authority in the areas of special education, student services and child accounting, and student civil rights.

He has represented school districts and intermediate units at every level of the federal and state judicial and administrative systems, lectured widely to audiences of educators and attorneys, and testified as an expert witness in court proceedings and before state and federal agencies.

He regularly conducts onsite staff training to client schools and is the driving force behind the firm's groundbreaking "Pool Counsel" service.

Session B: New Teacher Strand

Coaching for More Achievement...Growth for Gifted Learners

Tanya Morret

Session Description: Participants will practice analysis and coaching strategies with suggestions and models they can use when collaborating with general education teachers.

Presenter Information:

Tanya Morret is currently the PA Statewide Gifted Liaison. In that capacity as a consultant she supports the 29 Intermediate Units across the state and the districts in the Commonwealth to better meet the needs of gifted and advanced learners. She provides training on a variety levels in the areas of regulations, best practices, data analysis, curriculum, and programming development. In her 25th year in education, she holds a Masters in Gifted Education from Millersville and is pursuing her doctorate in C&I through Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Session C: Testing & Identification Strand
Understanding Gifted Students' Test Results

Dr. Mary Ann Swiatek

Session Description: IQ tests, standardized achievement tests, and curriculum-based assessment each have a place in academic planning for gifted students. Learn what kind of information can be provided by each of these types of tests and how they work together to help pinpoint a student's needs and inform his or her educational plan. The presentation will include specific information about the WISC-V.

Presenter Information:

Dr. Mary Ann Swiatek graduated from Oberlin College with honors in Psychology, and received her M.S. and Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Iowa State University. She is a licensed psychologist who works in private practice, providing psychological testing and therapy services. She is the 2012 recipient of the Neubler-Pregler award from the Pennsylvania Association for Gifted Education (PAGE). She has authored more than 30 articles and book chapters about gifted youth, and regularly presents on the topic to researchers, school administrators, teachers, and parents of gifted children

Session D: Hands-on Strand**Project Based Learning in Gifted Education**

Laura Hummell & Sally Flaherty (Tenative)

Session Description: Project Based Learning (PBL) is an effective way for gifted students to master 21st century skills and have more profound educational experiences. During this workshop, participants will explore PBL units and then develop their own PBL units.

Presenter Information:

Laura Hummell has been an educator for 26 years with a wide variety of experiences in PK-20 educational institutions. She is the PDE Technology and Engineering content advisor.

Sally Flaherty has been an educator for 40 years with an extensive background in civics, government, social studies curriculum, instruction, and assessment. She is the PDE Social Studies content advisor.

Session E: Teaching Best Practices Strand – Elementary Focus

Stefanie Stricker & Taryn Fleck

It's Time to Make Some of Those Projects Digital.....But How?

Session Description: This session will focus on digital creation tools, with an emphasis on how to transition your projects and assignments into the digital age, using the SMAR model of technology integration. We know creation is the highest form of learning, but how can we use technology to help students use their brains in creative and collaborative ways? We will explore tools such as Lucidpress, Glogster, Wix, Weebly, Padlet, Nearpod, and other easy ways to start having your students use more digital creation within your classroom. This session is appropriate for all grade levels and content areas.

Presenter Information: Taryn Fleck has just completed her sixth year as a Special Education Teacher for the East Stroudsburg Area School District. In 2015, she received a Master's Degree in Instructional Technology from East Stroudsburg University. It is here that she serves as an Adjunct Professor in the Digital Media Department. She has also spent the past two summers working to create online courses as an instructional designer for various companies.

Stefanie Stricker has just completed her thirteenth year as an elementary educator for the East Stroudsburg Area School District. She has taught 2nd, 5th, and 4th grades. In 2007, she received a Master's Degree in Reading from East Stroudsburg University. She is currently half-way done with a second Master's Degree in Instructional Technology, also from East Stroudsburg University.

Taryn and Stefanie have been co-teaching English Language Arts for three years. They have presented at East Stroudsburg Area School District's annual Spring into Technology conference and at Parkland's Tech Con, and have attended various technology conferences over the years. They are currently working on launching their blog, which focuses on using Project-Based Learning in conjunction with technology in their ELA classroom.

3:30 – 5:00

Membership Mingle Event

Rest of the Night

Dinner & Activities on Your Own