



## Thursday Schedule

**7:00 A.M. – 8:00 A.M.** Registration

**8:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.** AM Sessions (Pre-selected on registration)

### **Learning to exhale: Meeting the intellectual and emotional needs of gifted children**

*Jim Delisle*

**Session Description:** Gifted children possess unique social and emotional needs that must be understood and appreciated before they can be addressed appropriately. In this session, Dr. Delisle reviews these needs and ways to deal with them both in school and at home. Some of the issues reviewed include understanding what giftedness is (...and what it is not), accepting personal imperfections in self and others, and recognizing the fact that being gifted means a whole lot more than simply being "smart". Using specific examples from his 40+ years as a teacher, counselor and parent of gifted kids, Dr. Delisle will bring the world of gifted children and teens to life for his audience. (Best audiences: classroom teachers and/or school counselors responsible for serving gifted children, grades 4 – up)

### **Welcome to Gifted Education**

*Ciminy St. Clair, Marcia Gregorio and others*

**Session Description:** Are you new to gifted education? How comfortable are you with all of the acronyms in gifted (GIEP, NORA, GMDT, SDI)? This session is perfect for new teachers in gifted education and those that would like a review. Presenters will go over gifted regulations, GIEP writing and other topics that will benefit those new to gifted.

### **Imagination, Intelligence and Creativity**

*Dan Hunter*

**Session Description:** We must educate students for jobs that don't yet exist using technologies that haven't been invented. Today's students will need flexible intelligence, imagination and creativity—the ability to learn and adapt throughout their lives. But, how do we know what works to develop student creativity? How do we know if creative skills are increasing in individuals, students and in the workforce? And, importantly, how do we demonstrate to parents and the community that we are fostering creativity. Our society values most what can be measured. We will discuss new measurements for imagination leading creativity as well as the latest neuroscience research on imagination and intelligence. In this workshop, we will also discuss classroom, school and home practices that promote imagination leading to creativity at any age.

**12:00 P.M. – 1:15 P.M.** Lunch, Welcome and Keynote Address

**1:45 P.M. – 3:45 P.M.** PM Sessions

**1:45 P.M. – 3:45 P.M.** Two Hour Sessions

**The Power of Hands-On Learning in S.T.E.A.M.**

*Laura Coe, Kelly Carpenter*

**Session Description:** Join us while we 'think with our hands' in this session designed to help you learn about the power of interactive learning. During this event, you will be building models with LEGO® bricks, giving them meaning through lively discussions and playing out various possible scenarios. Don't worry, the models we build are super easy and we give you special pieces designed to help you express your ideas. Rediscover your passion, get back to basics, develop best practices to teach S.T.E.A.M. concepts...all while having fun!

**Rock Solid: Using Themes to Anchor Elementary Gifted Enrichment**

*Jeff Roberts, Susan Gebhard*

**Session Description:** Why do schools separate learning into subjects when gifted children typically seek to discover the relationships between concepts? Consider a model where themes build on the interests and strengths of a diverse group of learners as they collaborate to make powerful connections. We will discuss the gifted identification process, particularly for underrepresented populations, and an approach to gifted programming that empowers and delights students!

**Raising Multicultural Competence of GT Teachers through Literature during PD Sessions**

*Katie D. Lewis*

**Session Description:** Children's literature is an effective tool in creating a classroom culture which embraces cultural diversity and builds understanding amongst students, and professional learning communities often use educational texts as the basis for discussion. Participants will leave with an understanding on how to incorporate multicultural children's literature in professional learning communities in order to foster teachers' culturally responsive teaching practices.

**1:45 P.M. – 2:45 P.M.** One Hour Sessions

**Improv-ing Social Skills: Using Improv Games to Develop Social Skills in Gifted Students**

*Matthew J. Zakreski, PsyD*

**Session Description:** Improv games are an effective and fun way to teach and shape prosocial skills. This presentation will review the psychological theory behind using Improv as a social skills methodology. This presentation will also demonstrate some various Improv games and invite attendees to observe and participate.

## **Office for Dispute Resolution**

*Samantha Pudloski*

**Session Description:** TBA

**3:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.**

**One Hour Sessions**

### **Cultivating Creativity**

*Mike Sernoffsky*

**Session Description:** How can we cultivate creativity? This is a hands-on session designed to excite, motivate, and stimulate critical thinking and creativity. The goal is to pique the interest and curiosity of participants and in turn, pass that on to our next generation of learners.

### **Gifted Program Self-Evaluation: Educators as Agents of Change**

*Dr. Charlton Wolfgang; Jonathan Klingeman; Bronwyn Korchnak; David Mendell; Dr. York Williams*

**Session Description:** Program Evaluation plays an important role in helping to promote an environment that encourages creativity and innovation in both educators and students. The graduate students in the Evaluating Instructional Effectiveness course designed and conducted program evaluations during the Spring 2018 semester at Millersville University. In this panel session we will share how we conducted these evaluations and will discuss how our findings immediately impacted our schools and gifted learners through professional development, improved collaboration, more appropriate identification, and increased differentiation in the classroom.

**4:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

**Membership Mingle**

**Gifted Education Share Fair**

**Dinner & Activities on Your Own**

# Friday Schedule

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM

Registration

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Session A

## **The WIREWorks: An Integrated Creative Collaboratory**

*Colette Silvestri*

**Session Description:** Housed in a simple coffeehouse in 1996, The WIREWorks became the de facto ‘magnet school’ for the Harrisburg region and provided courses for students in music composition, play writing, acting lyric writing and an array of technological applications. Aside from standard theater arts courses, this highly-integrated curriculum also included digital film and sound, web construction, memetics and audience analysis via the Internet.

## **Thoughtful Games for Global Awareness**

*Judith Mosse*

**Session Description:** Engage students with hands-on activities that can broaden their perspective about the world around them. Discover fun, interdisciplinary games and role-playing activities that explore environmental stewardship, health, education, demographics and more. Stimulate discussion, critical thinking and problem-solving, while building knowledge and skills in science, math, social studies and literacy.

## **Sensory Integration And Understanding Dabrowski’s Overexcitabilities**

*Jaime Bassman*

**Session Description:** Many students who are twice exceptional also have sensory processing differences - related to their disability but also to their giftedness (ie Dabrowski’s overexcitabilities). An occupational therapist will provide clarification on how sensory differences impact upon the education of the gifted student.

## **Under the Radar: Innovations in Identifying Students from Underrepresented Populations**

*Ashley Flynn*

**Session Description:** It is widely recognized that students from low resource backgrounds are underrepresented in advanced academic programming. However, we also know that students with high academic ability exist in this population, but we are failing to identify them. Innovative efforts by the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth (CTY) attempt to address this problem in Baltimore City using an approach that combines identification, characterization, and programming to develop scalable solutions for CTY and beyond.

## **Citizen Science in the Gifted Education Classroom**

*Dr. James A. Feuerstein*

**Session Description:** Citizen science allows gifted students the opportunity to use their knowledge of the digital world to explore that natural world. This presentation will provide hands-on examples of how to use a variety of technology to complete scientific examinations of the natural environment

around your school and submit that information for inclusion in scientific databases. Online applications will include the use of eBird and iNaturalist, which are nationally recognized citizen science projects.

**9:15 AM – 10:15 AM**

**Session B**

### **Twisting, Turning, and Growth Mindset Learning**

*Nicole Reppert, Darcie Saar*

**Session Description:** It can be difficult to find a topic that promotes rigor, embeds content integration, and engages students while promoting growth mindset, so twisting time is here! The Rubik's Cube can be a powerful and successful tool that impacts students through encouraging perseverance, problem solving, critical thinking, stamina, and more. Explore how to incorporate the 2x2 or 3x3 Rubik's Cube in your classroom and challenge yourself to twist, turn, and utilize growth mindset while learning the cube!

### **Office for Dispute Resolution**

*Samantha Pudloski*

**Session Description:** ??

### **The Other 97%: Challenging Gifted Learners in the Regular Education Classroom**

*Bob Young*

**Session Description:** Gifted and high-achieving elementary students tend to get challenged weekly through the gifted support teacher. However, they spend approximately 97% of their time in the regular education teacher. Learn and interact with some effective programs and strategies used daily in a second grade classroom to challenge their learning.

### **It's Lit! Curating Community and Connection through Cross-Grade Literary Circles in Middle School**

*Carolyn McKinney, Rachel Nichols*

**Session Description:** It's Lit! Curating Community and Connection through Cross-Grade Literary Circles in Middle School will include an overview, rationale, and interactive demonstration of our optional enrichment seminars, which bring together advanced and voracious readers in grades six, seven, and eight to study selected literature and its cultural impact. In advance of selecting our texts, interpreted broadly to include non-print texts such as performance and historical artifacts, we consult area cultural organizations to find connections across the reading and local performances or exhibits. By self-selecting into Literary Circles, students take initiative to access advanced material and appropriately challenging grouping opportunities. The cross-grade component of Literary Circles enables gifted students to self-actualize, both as aspirants and leaders, regardless of their affective identities or asynchronous development.

**10:30 AM – 11:30 AM**

**Session C**

### **Creating Capstone Experiences: Designing Multifaceted Projects that Foster Innovation and Creative Problem Solving**

*Dr. Ashley Nestor, Mrs. Susan Kreit, Mrs. Sarah Everest*

**Session Description:** During this session, participants will learn about one district's experience with writing elementary gifted programming and curriculum centered on Capstones. A Capstone is a multifaceted experience designed to encourage students to think critically, solve challenging problems, and develop 21st century skills such as thinking flexibly, creating, innovating, persisting, and working collaboratively. Capstone projects are interdisciplinary and encourage students to connect their projects to real-world issues or problems. Participants will leave this session with the tools and materials necessary to create Capstone experiences in their home districts.

### **Practical Ideas for Improving Critical Thinking and Writing**

*Nathan Levy*

**Session Description:** This workshop will help teachers assist children in developing fluency of writing and thinking. Participants will develop options for problem-solving and critical thinking and will learn time-saving strategies and creative ideas. Writing and critical thinking activities that have been used successfully with gifted children will be shared in this engaging, interactive presentation.

### **Being a Member of a Consortium: An exponential effect in partnerships fostering and supporting student engagement**

*Sarah Skelton- Iroquois School District , Dr. Jeanette Schnars - Regional Science Consortium*

**Session Description:** Are you interested in learning how local partnerships can help support student engagement, college preparation, career exploration, and problem-solving skills? Learn how the Regional Science Consortium's (RSC) colleges, school districts, agencies, and local nonprofit members are coming together to promote the development of problem solving and critical thinking skills in gifted students through events where students interact from multiple school districts.

### **Motivate the Unmotivated: The Gifted Plus Crisis**

*Jeanette Salinas, Ed.D.*

**Session Description:** What can we learn from current research about motivation? Go beyond the curriculum standards to spark motivation, increase confidence, and engage students. Explore new ideas for meeting academic, social, and emotional needs.

### **Protractors to Pucks: Leveraging the Fast Paced Game of Hockey to Bring STEM Concepts to Life!**

*Alyssa Mahramus*

**Session Description:** In this session, educators will have hands on experience with an experiment that helps bring STEM to life via the exciting game of hockey. Each attendee will gain access to digital resources, supplemental lesson plans, assessments, and on-going technical and curriculum support brought to you by the Pittsburgh Penguins and the Philadelphia Flyers.

**12:00 PM – 1:15 PM**

**Seated Luncheon, Keynote Address by Jim Delisle, Awards**

**1:45 PM – 2:45 PM**

**Session D**

**Effective Advocacy with a Common Goal**

*Jen Zatchey*

**Session Description:** Effective advocacy is key to the overall well being and educational experience of gifted children. Parents, teachers, administrators, school boards, psychologists and counselors must work together to raise the academic ceiling if all children including the gifted are to advance. Learn how to respectfully, peacefully, and firmly navigate gifted education.

**Q & A with Jim Delisle (need updated title)**

*Jim Delisle*

**Session Description:** ??

**Create & Innovate Through Project Based Learning**

*Scott Stickney*

**Session Description:** Learn firsthand about Project Based Learning and how to design, plan and implement PBL endeavors into your classrooms or homeschool settings. Hear about successful projects from both a teacher and student viewpoint.

**Math and Science Stories to Inspire Passion in Gifted Students**

*Lawrence Zaccaro*

**Session Description:** Flawed thinking of mathematicians and scientists has been linked to many famous disasters, such as the Challenger explosion and the malfunction of the Mars Explorer. This session is built around engaging stories and activities that will fascinate any inquisitive mind. The strong connections between math and science and their critical foundation in our world will be explored.

**Full Grade Acceleration from the Parent and School Perspectives: Academic, Familial, Social, and Other Factors**

*Jeff Roberts, M.Ed., Beth LaGamba, Ed.D.*

**Session Description:** Is full grade acceleration the right choice for a student? Hear the first-hand experiences of a parent and the school as they considered the factors in making the complex decision. Learn about the supports developed to ensure the student's success and how you can make acceleration decisions at your school.

**3:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

**Session E**

**Creativity: Stimulating the Starting Point**

*Damon M. Piletz*

**Session Description:** When working with gifted children, creativity may be an area of deficiency. In an effort to promote overall development, gifted children struggle with finding their creative starting point.

## **Navigating the Quest for College**

*Dr. Gae Anderson-Miller*

**Session Description:** The quest for life after high school by gifted students and their families requires a different approach than that for the general school population of students. The general college and career guidance provided by overburdened school counselors does not typically include the diverse needs and learning styles of the gifted. Discover what admissions directors are looking for in a successful candidate and feel more empowered to tackle and navigate this all-to-important journey effectively.

## **The Cultivation of the Collective Among Gifted Students: Achieving Success Through Social Emotional Development**

*Kate M. Kossar*

**Session Description:** Join us as we explore the importance of social emotional development in the life of a gifted student through a sociological lens. We will examine the influence that a feeling of collectivity and belonging can have on the gifted child, and learn about meaningful modes and outlets for social emotional engagement.

## **Quiz Bowl**

*Kate M. Kossar*

**Session Description:** One of the most powerful enrichment experiences for gifted and talented students is the broad range of learning that stems from academic quiz bowl competitions. Come learn how to start your own program, build your student base and interest, and lead your team to success through academic competition!