

Pep Talk



Supporting the education and well-being of gifted learners of Tuscarawas County

AdvancED

Coordinator's Corner

Asynchronous Development

One commonality among gifted students is asynchrony: uneven development between cognitive, social, emotional, and physical abilities. The more highly gifted a child is, the more asynchronous s/he will be. For example, it is not unusual for an 8-year-old highly gifted child to be performing math tasks at a 7th grade level, reading at a 3rd grade level, and have fine motor skills at a 1st grade level. At times, appearing to be functioning socially at a level far below his/her age mates (NAGC.org).

A false assumption adults make about gifted students is "All gifted students are well-rounded individuals." In reality, most have intense struggles because of asynchronous development, yet, we expect them to be academic role models—creating unnecessary pressure they cannot cope with. Their asynchronous development is evident in underachievement, oversensitivity, frustrations, and perfectionism along with others.

What can we do? We need to realize their uniqueness makes them particularly vulnerable and modifications in teaching and counseling are required for them to achieve optimal development. The best anecdote: make time to get to know gifted students as individuals then make the necessary adjustments needed to meet their needs.



<u>January</u>

Calendar of Events

January 31—Ballet Excel at Dover High School

February 2—Franklin B. Walter nominations due

February 2—Writer's Workshop forms due February 9—Young Author's February 15—Law Day



Monthly Drawing

Each month a teacher's name will be drawn for a Game Giveaway. Please email your name and school district to:

lisa.burrell@ecoesc.org

This months game:

Wooden Tangrams Tetris Puzzle

Announcement: Remember to register before January 31st for the monthly game giveaway, which also registers you to win the grand prize of a Wise Owl Gift Card for your classroom at the end of the year! Good Luck!

Book Recommendations for Gifted Social/Emotional Considerations

These books explore underachievement, perfectionism, twice exceptional and more.

