



Supporting the education and well-being of gifted learners of Carroll, Guernsey, and Tuscarawas Counties.

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Congratulations!

To Our January Winner
of the Cat Stax Game:

Mikenzi Hughes

From:

East Guernsey Schools

Calendar of Events

Feb. 1 - Franklin B. Walter
Nominations Due to ESC

Feb. 6 - Winter Law Day

Feb. 17 -- Presidents Day

Feb. 21 -- Young Authors &
Illustrators Conference,
Part 2 @ KSU - Tusc

Mar. 4 - MS Honors Band
and Choir - KSU-PAC

Coordinator's

Corner: *A Meeting with Gifted Middle Schoolers*



Over the past couple of months I have spent some time with middle school students, from different districts, identified as gifted: (superior cognitive, creative thinkers, and subject specific). Each one did a survey on gifted characteristics. The top two: Approximately 93% stated they have a fear of making mistakes and of failure. 60% stated they are easily bored in class because the work is not challenging.

Many gifted students, no matter what the age, are quite good at hiding their fear of making mistakes and of failure. This fear affects their perception of self. All of them agreed that mistakes = failure = worthless. The feeling of being worthless has its own side effects. Some give up and quit trying. Others, get angry and will rip up the work with the mistake or bad grade. What they need to hear often is failure and mistakes are keys used to open doors to more learning and they do not define who we really are. Encourage perseverance and praise effort not results.

Regarding getting bored easily: Students shared they get bored when they already know what is being taught. One question I was asked, "Why can't teachers find out what we know so we don't have to sit through boring stuff?" Easily bored gifted students can quickly become the underachiever. Grades, incentives, and consequences have no effect on the gifted underachiever. When a gifted student underachieves, it is easy to conclude that student is not gifted. That is a misconception. They are still gifted; just not being challenged. There are times when challenges appear too difficult. Why? Chances are the challenge is not the topic or subject of interest. This leads to the push for differentiated instruction. Pretests are great because it allows the gifted students to prove if they really know the upcoming content or not. If they do, allow them to investigate something they are interested in. Work with them to created a learning contract which will guide their independent study and research. Another tried and true strategy is compacting curriculum. Allowing them to learn about an interest, can motivate them to do more. Compacting curriculum encourages them to go deeper into the content being taught. Either way, the gifted students will begin to grow academically.

After our discussion on gifted characteristics and what being gifted means, I asked students, "What is one thing you would like to tell your teacher(s) about being gifted?"

One gifted middle schooler's answer, "I just wish my teachers and parents could get inside my brain, see how it works, then, maybe, they could understand why I am the way I am and be okay with it."

Keep encouraging, stay patient, praise effort, and take time to discover more about your gifted students. You will be amazed at how much they really do know and understand.



Lisa Burrell, Gifted Coordinator



Use Yer Noggin!

The "New" 3 Rs: How You Can Help the Planet

What's a pirate's favorite letter? "Arrrrrrr!!"

Do you know 3 Rs in a row can stand for "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle," a phrase that not only pirates would like, but would also help us remember how to help our planet! Every time you practice the "new" 3 Rs, you help the Earth!

See how many ideas you and your class can generate:

1. REDUCE:

To reduce means to use less of something. List ways you could reduce your use of things that hurt the earth, like plastic. For example, shutting off the lights when you're leaving a room reduces the need for electricity. To make electricity, most often fossil fuels like oil and gas are burned. This pollutes the Earth.

2. REUSE:

Reusing an item stops it from being thrown into the trash and taking up more landfill space. For each item below, list as many ways as possible to reuse it. Be serious AND silly! Then think of three more objects you could reuse and think of new uses for them.

Plastic sandwich bag

Plastic milk, juice, or soda bottle

Foam or plastic food tray

3. RECYCLE:

Most neighborhoods, towns, and cities have a "curbside" recycling program or drop-off center. List as many things as possible that you could recycle. Research which common items are accepted at your local recycling center.

Teacher Corner: Remixing

From Ian Byrd's website, Byrdseed:

One of my favorite ways to [differentiate for gifted students](#) is to create “remixes” of an existing idea. Students take an existing story, reshape it, and create a new product. It encourages them to explore the stories behind existing stories, helps them to understand how real writers work, and gives them a creative way to explore literature.

Begin with any story that your class is familiar with or ask students to pick their own favorite stories to rewrite.

The task of rewriting a story is quite formidable, so I give students a menu to choose from. They must change at least three of the following:

- Change time
- Change place
- Change characters' gender
- Change characters' species
- Change beginning, middle or, end
- Change intended audience
- Change the universe (ie, move a story into the Star Wars universe or the Harry Potter universe)
- Change point of view

We review the essential pieces of a story by using the week's selection (in this case Gary Soto's The Challenge). This humorous story features a middle school boy foolishly attempting to impress a girl through racquetball.

The essential elements are:

- characters (main and supporting)
- events (in both the main plot and subplots)
- setting
- conflict
- theme

Students then list these same essential pieces using a story of their choosing. My kids go for everything from movies, to novels, to video game stories.

Once they've got the idea, I bring in the creativity framework SCAMPER:

SCAMPER stands for:

- Substitute
- Combine
- Adapt
- Magnify / Maximize / Minimize
- Put to Other Uses
- Eliminate
- Rearrange

Each represents a way to slightly change an idea to create something new.

...for the rest of this lesson, go to <https://www.byrdseed.com/remixing-ideas-with-gifted-students/> .

The only box of chocolates I want this Valentine's Day



Did you know...

Ordering a bouquet for Valentine's Day? Have it tied in lace.

The word "lace" comes from the Latin laques, meaning "to snare or net," as in to catch a person's heart.

February Fun Facts

Some interesting facts about Valentine's Day:

- Every year, more than 36 million [heart shaped boxes of chocolates](#) are sold across the country.
- Sorry men, it looks like you'll be spending twice as much as women this year on gifts. The average man spends \$130 on [Valentine's Day](#), while women spend about \$70.
- Don't forget about your pets! Every year, around 9 million people buy their pets a Valentine's Day gift.
- February 14th is the second largest card giving day of the year, just after Christmas. This year, it's expected that 1 billion cards will be exchanged around the world.
- Teachers receive the most Valentine's Day cards, followed by kids, mothers, wives and girlfriends.
- Hallmark was one of the first to mass produce a Valentine's Day card, all the way back in 1913.
- More than one-third of men are comfortable not receiving anything from a lover on Valentine's Day.

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Register to Win!

the monthly game giveaway...
Email your name and school district by:

**February 26
to:**

lisa.burrell@ecoesc.org

Or

rachel.winters@ecoesc.org



Monthly Game Giveaway

Coggy

- Folding, clicking puzzle of arranging gears to match challenge cards, one side features colors
- Fold and arrange gears to match images printed on 40 challenge cards
- Great for ages 6+, exceptionally strong, safe, high-quality materials, bpa free
- Strengthens visual-spatial skills, critical thinking, logic, detailed instructions
- Includes coggy, 40 challenge cards, chain of gears measures 14 inches long,

