



## GT Staff

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Rib Mountain

## Welcome to Our First GT Newsletter

Our department felt it was time to have a regular communication tool with our GT families. Survey results from last year indicated a need from families for more communication. This is our attempt at providing you with information in the GT Department of the Wausau School District.

Please feel free to tell us things you would like to see in this newsletter. Ideas may be shared by emailing [krpeterso@wausauschools.org](mailto:krpeterso@wausauschools.org). As time goes by, you may notice changes to the format, but it is our goal to provide you with this newsletter on a quarterly basis.

We've been busy in our department and we are excited to share a few highlights:

- Aaron Boller, Middle School GT Learning Resource Teacher hired (introduction on page 2)
- GT Informational Sessions with staff
- Leadership Program for grades 4 and 5 concluded October 18, 2017

Thank you for your interest in gifted education.

Tammy Steckbauer, GT Coordinator

## 2017-2018 Leadership Conference



Students met with leaders in local businesses.



For your  
Calendar

November 16-17, 2017  
WATG Conference

January 9-12, 2018  
Elem. Art Cluster

February 15, 2018  
Book Bowl

## GT Teacher Spotlight

Greetings Wausau School District Families,

I am so excited to introduce myself to you as the new middle school gifted and talented resource teacher!

In 1987, my family relocated to Wausau after my Dad was hired by NTC in the business department. After graduating from Wausau West High School in 1991, I attended UW-Stevens Point where I earned my degree in elementary education and soon after a Master's Degree.

Since 1997, I have taught 1st, 2nd, 2nd/3rd split, and 3rd grades at Hawthorn Hills School. 3rd grade was undoubtedly my niche where I could indulge my sense of humor and get "punny" with (relatively) older students. Guiding third graders toward increased independence was my greatest pleasure.

After more than 20 years in elementary school I am eager to transition to middle school. I am eager to share my talents and enthusiasm with you, and I look forward to learning from all you have to share with me!

With our children in mind,

Aaron Boller

[aboller@wausauschools.org](mailto:aboller@wausauschools.org)

## GT Advisory Committee

The GT Advisory Committee is one of two district level committees that guides our work in the GT Department. This committee generally meets three times annually: Fall, winter and spring. This committee is comprised of a variety of individuals. Standing members include members of the GT Dept., all members of the Education Dept., a school psychologist, school counselor, the Rtl coordinator, school board member, parents, and administration and teachers from all three levels. Our number one interest is making sure that we have the right voices at the table to make the important decisions to best serve our students.

The GT Advisory's biggest accomplishments from the past four years include:

- Completion of GT Handbook ([LINK](#))
- Improvements to our GT Website ([LINK](#))
- Creation of BOE Policy 5316 ([LINK](#)) and revision of BOE Policy 5315 ([LINK](#))
- Alignment of our K-12 Math Curriculum
- Creation of policies and procedures to govern online courses for math
- Enhancement of our Art Cluster Program through inclusion of the Leigh Yawkey
- Addition of a Choral Music Opportunity

Our first advisory meeting for 2017-18 will be held on November 9, 2017. We will introduce our new middle school GT Learning Resource Teacher and begin the process of creating a 5 year strategic plan for the Wausau School District. Please watch for updates regarding our work in the next edition of our newsletter.

## GT Myth: Gifted Students Don't Need Help; They'll Do Fine On Their Own

**GT Fact:** Would you send a star athlete to train for the Olympics without a coach? Gifted students need guidance from well-trained teachers who challenge and support them in order to fully develop their abilities. Many gifted students may be so far ahead of their same-age peers that they know more than half of the grade-level curriculum before the school year begins. Their resulting boredom and frustration can lead to low achievement, despondency, or unhealthy work habits. The role of the teacher is crucial for spotting and nurturing talents in school.

## Parent Resources

Nov 17 – Parent Day at WATG Conference. Learn more at [WATG.ORG](http://WATG.ORG).

Ongoing – Northwestern University online courses for Gifted Students K-12. Visit [www.ctd.northwestern.edu/online](http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/online).

Student Poetry Contest <https://www.scholasticpublishing.org/>

## Teacher Resources

Letters About Literature Writing Contest – Deadline January 12, 2018 [writing contest link](#)

