



GT Staff

Tammy Steckbauer – GT Coordinator/Rib Mountain Principal

tsteckba@wausauschools.org

(715) 261-0220

Matt Adams - GT Learning Resource Teacher

madams@wausauschools.org

(715) 261-0957

Franklin, Hawthorn Hills, GD Jones and Riverview

Aaron Boller – GT Learning Resource Teacher

aboller@wausauschools.org

Horace Mann and John Muir Middle Schools

Cheryl Borta – GT Learning Resource Teacher

cborta@wausauschools.org

(715) 261-0955

Thomas Jefferson, Maine, Rib Mountain Leadership and Book Bowl Coordinator

Heidi Hahner – GT Learning Resource Teacher

hhahner@wausauschools.org

(715) 261-0956

John Marshall, Hewitt-Texas

Amy Jaglinski – GT Learning Resource Teacher

ajaglins@wausauschools.org

(715) 261-0958

South Mountain, Lincoln, Grant, Stettin

Kris Peterson – GT Department Secretary

krpeterso@wausauschools.org

(715) 261-0952

Rib Mountain



South Mountain 5th graders showcase their projects after a novel study of [The Shakespeare Stealer](#) by Gary Blackwood

Our GT Department Has Been Busy..Busy..Busy

Thank you for taking the time to read our GT newsletter. We are working very hard to improve communication with our families, and this newsletter has become an efficient way to share information with our stakeholders. Please feel free to share any ideas YOU may have by emailing krpeterso@wausauschools.org. If it's information important to you, chances are very good that it would be meaningful to other parents as well.

Gifted Education was celebrated in Wisconsin during the week of November 12-18, 2017, through a proclamation from our governor. That week also marked the annual WATG (Wisconsin Association of Talented and Gifted) Conference.

Our GT Department attended this conference and enjoyed collaborating and meeting other educators from across Wisconsin. Many important presentations were attended to enhance our skills and programs as well as to help develop a stronger understanding of the needs of our gifted learners.

The keynote on Thursday was a presentation entitled **Self-Regulation for Learning-Helping Students Learn HOW to Learn**. Richard Cash, originally from Antigo, WI, was the presenter. In a nutshell, his message encompassed the ABC's of Self-Regulation: A=Affect (How are you feeling?), B=Behavior (How are you behaving?), and C=Cognitive (What are you thinking?). His message was very clear that parents can help support their child's development and self-regulation for learning. Please click on the link for the full article to learn more.

[Self-Regulation for Learning Article](#)

The second keynote was a presentation shared by Dr. Foley-Nicpon entitled- **Supporting the Social and Emotional Development of High Ability and Twice Exceptional Learners**. This was another highly engaging presentation where much could be learned. She opened with the notion that according to an American Psychological Association Report, "Stress" is a real issue for all children, but can have a profound impact upon our high ability learners. In a world of social media and information available through news reports 24-7, we have to be careful to provide a filter for our high achievers who think and feel and internalize differently.

Dr. Foley-Nicpon talked about underachievers, high-achievers, perfectionism, and twice-exceptionality as four areas of concern she deals with daily in her practice in supporting high achievers.

If you would like to visit her website at the Belin-Blank Center to read their blog at: [Belin Blank Blog](#)

Seven Ways to Take Charge of Boredom – Dr. Richard Cash, Keynote Speaker at WATG Conference

1. Know the signs of boredom. Think of ways to avoid or get out of that state.
2. Surround yourself with active people. They are not usually bored.
3. Turn the situation into a game. Maybe you can be a spy decoding secret messages.
4. Don't escape through hiding. Break that pattern: Go for a walk, think about things differently, breathe deeply.
5. Link your interest to the topic of study.
6. Change the way you do things. For example, try sketching pictures rather than taking notes.
7. Get excited about something. Find a fascinating fact or interesting detail in what you are studying.

Ten Study Habits – Dr. Richard Cash, Keynote Speaker at WATG Conference

- Planning a regular study time
- Creating the right environment
- Time management of tasks
- Organization of materials
- Learning type awareness
- Break-time
- Self-regulation responsiveness
- Asking for help
- Self-assessment
- Reflection

GT Identification Committee

The GT Identification Committee is one of two district level committees that guide our work in the GT Department. This committee meets twice annually in December and May. The committee is comprised of the Wausau School District Education Department, the GT Department, and a school psychologist. Our committee has two purposes: Revise and update as needed the guidelines used to identify gifted students and ensure that we are doing our best to identify all students in the Wausau School District.

Our committee met on December 8, 2017. After reviewing the guidelines used to identify gifted students, we discussed a variety of other topics. A great deal of time was spent discussing an issue that has plagued the field of education including gifted programs for over 100 years, and that is *Underrepresentation*. In an effort to make sure we are doing our best to find and identify all students in need of gifted services including students from underrepresented groups, the Wausau School District universally screens all second grade students with the InView, Terra Nova Assessment. This means the test is given to all students with no exceptions regardless of English Proficiency. The assessment is given in mid November, and results are received in mid to late December to help inform the identification process.

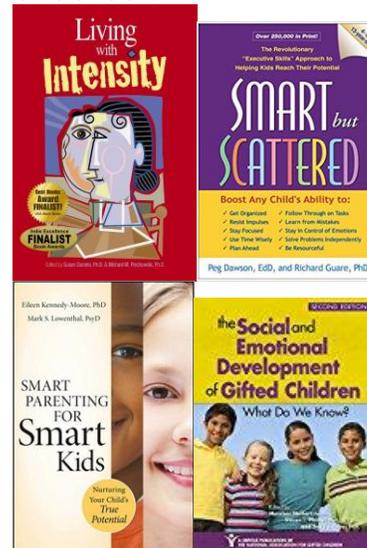
Another large chunk of time was spent discussing other assessments currently in use as we are always researching alternative assessments to be sure we have the most accurate results possible. In the winter is when a lot of gifted testing happens as the identification window opens in December, so that will keep our GT Learning Resource Teachers extremely busy.

Our committee will meet again in May to review the database and examine testing results. Parents whose children are tested are then notified of the results at the end of May.

Tammy Steckbauer, GT Coordinator

Parent Resources

New Books added to GT collection for parent checkout:



Ongoing – Northwestern University online courses for Gifted Students K-12.

Visit www.ctd.northwestern.edu/online.

[Student Poetry Contest](#)

Teacher Resources

Letters About Literature Writing Contest –
Deadline January 12, 2018

[writing contest link](#)



Please watch your email in March for a GT survey. We appreciate your time and feedback.