



Minnesota Council
for the Gifted & Talented

"On Behalf of Gifted Kids..." Annual Conference

**Saturday, November 2, 2019
Robbinsdale Middle School
Robbinsdale Area Schools
Robbinsdale, MN**

Minnesota Council for the Gifted and Talented
5701 Normandale Rd., #315
Edina, MN 55424
www.mcgt.net (952) 848-4906

Robbinsdale Area Schools





AxyLu Academics

Dr. Melissa Malen, 651-442-6082

www.melissamalen@yahoo.com



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Great things happen when we work together for the good of gifted people. That's why Thrivent Financial is proud to join with MCGT to support the Outlook Newsletter.

Pathways Team

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MINNESOTA INSTITUTE for Talented Youth



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Young people are Minnesota's most valuable resource, and they are critical to the future of our state; and
- WHEREAS: Education should foster the development of young minds, leadership skills, creativity, academic abilities, and artistic talents; and
- WHEREAS: The state of Minnesota and its education system play a key role in nurturing all of our remarkable students; and
- WHEREAS: All students should have the opportunity to participate in talented and gifted programs offered in schools; and
- WHEREAS: Development of each individual's intellectual and creative powers will help us meet the challenges of the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim October 27 - November 2, 2019 as:

GIFTED AND TALENTED YOUTH WEEK

in the State of Minnesota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 25th day of October.

GOVERNOR



Steve Pimm

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ON BEHALF OF GIFTED KIDS...

Once again, that's the theme for the Minnesota Council for the Gifted and Talented (MCGT) Annual Conference on Saturday, November 2, 2019. The focus will be on gifted children and the importance of advocacy for them in educational settings, in the community and with decision-making groups such as the legislature. The Robbinsdale Area Schools are hosting and co-sponsoring the gathering on its Robbinsdale Middle School campus. And it wouldn't have all happened without the help of lots of volunteers - thank you!

MCGT is a state-wide non-profit membership organization dedicated to promoting better understanding of, and educational services for, gifted and talented children and their families. MCGT provides information, literature and referral services, publishes a bi-monthly newsletter, conducts occasional topical seminars and informational fairs, hosts a moderated email group for members, sponsors an annual state conference with special children's program, and promotes advocacy at all levels for gifted and talented children. Chapters and CHAT Nights throughout the state provide additional opportunities for local activities and support.

MCGT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Wendy Behrens

Save the Dates

January 26-28, 2020

Minnesota Educators of the Gifted and Talented (MEGT) Mid-Winter Conference
at Cragun's Resort on Gull Lake

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Dr. Karen Rogers speaking in Lakeville

Saturday, April 2020 (date tbd)

MCGT Mini-Conference: **Gifted 101** for those who are seeking basic information regarding parenting and/or educating gifted children

November 5-8, 2020

National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) Annual Convention
at Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando, FL

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

AUDITORIUM THE IMPACT OF ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE ON IDENTITY

- In regards to matters of identity, human beings are no different than any other living species on the planet. Each of us thrive in environments where both our **Base** and our **Place** are recognized and respected. Unlike other living species however, as critical thinking beings with the unique ability to "argue", we are able to intentionally create organizational cultures that foster authentic relationships, enhance our performance, and realize our potential.

Presenter: **Alonzo Kelly**

BREAK-OUT SESSION I

10:45 - 11:45 A.M.

AUDITORIUM THE INTERSECTION OF LIVED EXPERIENCE, LEARNED EXPERIENCE, FORMAL EDUCATION, AND EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

- Imagine a four way intersection with no signage for drivers to heed as they approach. This image reflects the point at which we engage one another, personally and professionally, and the potential damage from conflict if neither is willing to 'Yield' as a default maneuver. The 'Power of Pause' allows us to be intentional with our communication, critical in our thinking, and empathetic in our response. Following this simple, yet powerful instruction, is how strong communities are created and sustained.

Presenter: **Alonzo Kelly**

ROOM 132 PROJECT NORTH STAR BOOK

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2ES (GRADES 4-8) - My role for Project North Star was to develop a robust list of titles that featured authentic portrayals of gifted students and a companion series of "reflection guides" that would enable entire classes, literature circles or individual gifted students to read, reflect, and process the content in each book. While reading and researching I found a "sub-genre" of extraordinary depictions of twice-exceptional characters that I have used to help twice-exceptional students, their peers, teachers, and parents understand and embrace the sometimes confusing world in which 2Es reside. My presentation will include summaries of the best of these titles and also suggestions for how to use reflections guides and discussion to promote self-understanding and self-acceptance for 2Es.

Presenter: **Stephen Schroeder-Davis**

ROOM 136 SPIRITUALLY--

ENERGETICALLY--EXISTENTIALLY

GIFTED? - Can your child 'feel' things that aren't 'there', see and hear things that you cannot, know things ahead of time that they have no prior knowledge of, or ask about the meaning of life and other big questions?

When an intuitive child's sensitivity is nurtured, validated and supported, the child learns to love and honor their inner light. Learn strategies to nurture and support your child, learn about some fantastic kid-friendly resources, and some ideas to support your parenting of this type of giftedness. This area of giftedness is gaining more attention and support from the world of gifted, and this session is where you can own your experience and relax in the knowledge that you aren't alone.

Presenter: **Kris Happe**

ROOM 229 WHY ARE SOME TASKS FRUSTRATING, AND OTHER TASKS EASY?

- How can someone identified as a gifted individual struggle with school or work tasks? Identify how to balance strengths and challenges to reduce frustration and anxiety. Learn about various technology tools and learning strategies used to help individuals in K-12, college, and career settings to become more independent, successful, and productive when doing academic and career tasks. Gain a better understanding of what and how a Twice Exceptional (2E) individual should self-advocate when meeting with teachers and employers. Technology tools include Mac, PC, Chromebook, and iOS programs and apps. THINK with Success does not sell nor endorse any technology products.

Presenter: **Erika Kluge**

ROOM 232 PRACTICAL IDEAS FOR IMPROVING CRITICAL THINKING AND WRITING

- 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.

Presenter: **Nathan Levy**

ROOM 233 EMPOWERING GIFTED LEARNERS BY DESIGN

- Empowering Gifted Learners by Design provides an interactive and collaborative workshop that engages participants in design thinking. Facilitated by award-winning education leaders, participants learn and practice strategies to design flexible learning communities that empowers all people - young and old - to pursue purposeful and authentic learning. Whether a parent looking for ways to engage their gifted child or an educational leader looking for a spark to empower students, this workshop will create space to ideate and collaborate together in a meaningful way.

Presenters: **Nathan Streng & Sam Neisen**

ROOM 234 ACADEMIC COACHING TO SUPPORT IDENTIFICATION OF ACCOMMODATIONS FOR IEP AND 504 PLANS

- Join Dr. Malen to learn about academic coaching for 2e students. More specifically, what exactly is academic coaching, who are 2e students, and what are typical disabilities that challenge 2e students in school? Discuss executive function (EF) skills: What are they and how do EF challenges how do they affect GT students? Learn how parents, teachers, and others can effectively coach 2e students. Discover tactics students can implement as learning accommodations that can result in improved achievement in school.

Presenter: **Melissa Malen**

ROOM 901 LITTLE GIFTS - How do I know if my pre-schooler is gifted?... and if gifted now what?... Come to an interactive session that shares information on characteristics of pre-school giftedness as well as resources for the gifted pre-schooler and parents.

Presenter: **Pam McDonald**

ROOM 903 MEETING THE NEEDS OF MATHEMATICALLY GIFTED STUDENTS

- Are you finding it difficult to meet the needs of children who are gifted in mathematics? Children who are talented in mathematics must not only progress through their curriculum at the proper pace, but also must be exposed to material that lights a fire and nurtures their gift. A failure to find mathematics challenging, interesting, or relevant are significant factors when children lose interest in mathematics. This session will cover the most important features of programs that successfully meet the needs of mathematically gifted children.

Presenter: **Ed Zaccaro**

MID-DAY SESSION 12:20-1:20 P.M.

GYM SPORTS ACTIVITIES THAT BENEFIT GIFTED CHILDREN

- Many parents want their gifted child to participate in one or more sports activities. Our society values sports because they are entertaining and teach many life lessons. However, there are very few articles or research written about this topic even though most gifted children are asynchronous in their development. Selecting a specific sport activity becomes problematic if the child's physical, social or emotional ability does not fit with the sport requirements. Parent and child need to consider several factors when choosing a sport that better suits their child. These factors will be discussed with case studies. Questions welcome throughout the table talk time.

Presenter: **Stuart Dansinger**

ROOM 132 A PICTURE IS WORTH 1,000 WORDS

- Art can be used to evoke rich dialogue in our gifted students. Through this breakout, learn two techniques to use fine art to create a springboard of conversation about one's imagination/curiosity and building a moral identity.

Presenter: **David Wolff**

ROOM 136 GROWTH MINDSET - SAY WHAT? -

Growth Mindset... Fixed Mindset... YET?? What does all of this mean? During this presentation you will understand what it means to have a growth mindset and learn about the power of YET. We will discuss ways to support your students and children by the way you structure your classroom/home and through rich literature that will help to facilitate discussions and learning with all children. I will also share a comprehensive book list that I have created to support many areas of Social Emotional Learning.

Presenter: **Jenine Severson**

1:00-1:20 P.M. IN THE AUDITORIUM

MCGT ANNUAL MEETING. All members are encouraged to participate in this meeting where there will be a vote on MCGT Board elections and reports on the state of MCGT and its activities.

BREAK-OUT SESSION II **1:30-2:30 P.M.**

AUDITORIUM MISDIAGNOSED IN THE WORKPLACE: HELPING OUR KIDS SURVIVE IN THE WORLD - The truth is not eloquent. Our misdiagnosed children grow up and are primed to be misdiagnosed at work. The workplace however will not mislabel their employees as 'ADHD' or 'Oppositional Defiant'. Their performance evaluations will reflect them as 'argumentative', 'lacking teamwork', and 'poor communicators'. This session will explore how we as teachers, parents, advocates, and allies strengthen our relationship with employers and embrace our role as counselors and teachers for those responsible to the continued growth of our children.

Presenter: **Alonzo Kelly**

ROOM 132 GIVE THEM RIGOR OR GIVE THEM MORTIS: LEADING ELA CHALLENGE WITH MENTOR NETWORK - This presentation overviews Mankato Area Public Schools strategic use of a new online gateway to challenge gifted and talented learners. The chosen curriculum conveys and ignites passion for the art, story, and study of English Language Arts. Attendees will learn how Mankato Area Public Schools utilizes a cluster model for gifted education within a balanced approach to literacy framework to benefit students and instructors with personalized learning; embedded assessments; immediate feedback; collaborative opportunities; and flexible options for student choice and voice.

Presenters: **Marti Sievek & Tania Lyon**

ROOM 136 CALM, CURIOUS CONNECTIONS - See your kids-students for VERY limited amounts of time? Learn to quickly connect with our kids, impact their stress levels, build their curiosity & wonder, at home, in the car, classroom, or anywhere. Helping children learn to manage their stress, regulate their emotions and quiet their minds is a long lasting, high impact strategy that we could be adopt. Just a few short minutes can positively impact achievement, clear thinking and overall well-being. Learn strategies and gain some resources to get started today. Discover how she builds this into her classroom management system and transition times and how you can implement this at home too. Come learn about Calm, Curious Connections!

Presenter: **Kris Happe**

ROOM 229 RECOGNIZING ANXIETY IN GIFTED CHILDREN - Levels of childhood anxiety are on the rise and gifted children are no exception to this trend. In this session we will explore the seven ways your child may be telling you they are experiencing anxiety without directly saying so. You will leave with evidence-based tools to help your child cope with their anxiety and tips for working with your child's school to identify possible accommodations. This session is intended for parents early in their journey learning how to identify signs of anxiety and help their child develop coping skills.

Presenter: **Shelly Harvey**

ROOM 232 MINDFULNESS FOR GROWTH - Learn how mindfulness strategies can refuel your connection to those around you and support the gifted child/ren you serve. You'll gain strategies to help mitigate burnout and find ways to infuse mindfulness into your home, classroom, and life. This session can be attended by administrators, parents, and educators.

Presenter: **Carrie Foster**

ROOM 233 CULTIVATING CREATIVITY - If creativity can be grown, why aren't we spending more time and efforts in cultivating it? Ideas and inventions are what shapes tomorrow. We need our gifted students to be more than consumers of knowledge, they need to be producers of new ideas. Einstein said, "Creativity is Intelligence having fun!" Let's focus on some great strategies that can be used anywhere and anytime to help cultivate a bit of fun and strengthen creativity!

Presenter: **Erin Boltik & Meredith Aby-Keirstead**

ROOM 234 EXECUTIVE FUNCTION COACHING TO SUPPORT LIVING SKILLS FROM HOME TO DORM LIVING - Learn about executive function (EF) skills because most 2e students experience challenges with these skills in areas such as organization, planning, time management, prioritizing and meeting deadlines; whether turning in an assignment or walking out the door on time. Discuss tactics that can be used while living at home to facilitate EF skills that can also be used to bridge home to dorm living for students attending residential summer programs or college.

Presenter: **Melissa Malen**

ROOM 901 NEW TO GIFTED? - This presentation will be tailored to session attendees and cover questions such as: What does it mean to be gifted? What are some of the characteristics and behaviors related to giftedness? What about asynchronous development? Is it possible for a child to be gifted and have a learning disability, or do they cancel out? How is a child identified as gifted? What school/educational options are there for gifted students?

Presenter: **Wendy Behrens**

ROOM 903 WHY HEADPHONES, WARM LIGHTS, AND DIFFUSERS HELP GIFTED LEARNERS... SOMETIMES - Educators and parents have plenty of different tools and approaches for meeting the learning needs of gifted children... but that doesn't make it any easier! The goal of this session to clearly identify how gifted children's sensory needs may vary from the norm and what strategies research suggests we should implement to accommodate those needs... as well as real-life examples of successes and failures from actual implementation.

Presenter: **Max Melby**

BREAK-OUT SESSION III

2:45-3:45 P.M.

AUDITORIUM CONVERSATION WITH ALONZO - Join Alonzo for an informal question and answer session. This will be an opportunity to seek additional information on topics from earlier presentations or to ask other pertinent questions of our keynoter.

ROOM 132 SOCRATIC SEMINARS: EASY AS 1-2-3 - For years I wanted to use Socratic Seminars to elicit deep conversations about a topic in class but was never able to structure it and explain it to students...until now! Join me to learn about how Socratic Seminars benefit gifted learners, how to structure it in a classroom, and practice one together.

Presenter: **David Wolff**

ROOM 136 PILLARS OF PARENTING FOR PEACE AT HOME - Are you stressed out and exhausted from your child's poor listening, lack of self-control and defiant behavior? Family dynamics are complex, especially when you have a gifted child. The constant questioning, button-pushing and limit-testing may lead to anger, yelling, and then burdensome guilt. You want to enjoy spending time with your child but instead you feel disrespected. It's time to regain your authority - and your sanity! In this interactive presentation you will receive solutions from the Mad2Glad Blueprint that are key to having a calmer, more cooperative child and restoring your sanity. You will learn more about the neuroscience behind your child's behavior. Most importantly, you will leave with practical tips that you can implement immediately.

Presenter: **Suz Feely**

ROOM 229 TEACHING GIFTED CHILDREN HOW TO REDUCE THEIR ANXIETY - Gifted children are not free of stress. Their anxiety and struggles with life challenges occur regularly and have many causes. Unfortunately, relaxation exercises are not taught on a formal basis to cope with tension arising at home, school, or community. When a child is able to reduce his/her anxiety he/she can think more clearly, make better decisions, get through difficult situations easier, solve problems, and feel confident and successful. This session will discuss and describe a number of techniques that can be done in a short time, at one's convenience, without cost, and based on psychological research. Q and A will follow.

Presenter: **Stuart Dansinger**

ROOM 232 HOMESCHOOLING GIFTED CHILDREN - Join homeschooling parents of gifted and talented students as they answer your questions and help you find your way! If school is not a great fit, you need additional resources or you may be already thinking of/ wondering about homeschooling or other options, then this is the session for you. No question is too simple or too unusual. No age too young or old.

Presenters: **CHOICES Chapter Members**

ROOM 233 HIGH SCHOOL TEENS AND THEIR COLLEGE-LEVEL RESEARCH:

FACTORS IN THEIR SUCCESS - The adult presenter describes successful techniques of high school researchers nationally in selecting and accomplishing college-level research, as well as effective approaches of mentors in guiding these youth. Three teen presenters then explain their college-level research. The first two students describe the innovative gifted-education and legal data-base approaches that guided their mutual inquiry into openings in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for serving the strengths of twice-exceptional students. The third youth explains his creation of Java coding techniques that could be used to develop a visual-impairment-related mobility app for Microsoft's new Hololens.

Presenters: **Terry Friedrichs, Collin McEllistrom,**

Amogh Kulkarni & Devesh Bhor

ROOM 234 WHAT IS UP WITH GIFTED LEARNERS AND WRITING?

- This one-hour session is a forum for a conversation and opportunity to learn from each other regarding the common conundrum of gifted learners and "hating" writing. Information from research, recommended resources and strategies will be shared.

Presenter: **Tina Van Erp**

ROOM 901 COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHERS AND

ADMINISTRATORS - This session will provide information about talking with principals, administrators, and teachers about the following: the district or school's program model used to meet the needs of gifted/talented learners; teacher training in academic and socio-affective needs of gifted/talented students; evidence of advanced coursework (higher level thinking, advanced content, and other academic rigor); asking teachers about curriculum or services that address critical and creative thinking as well as socio-affective/social-emotional needs; asking teachers about their observations and support regarding your child's learning habits, social interactions, classroom expectations, responses to academic rigor, 2E challenges, etc.

Presenter: **Julie Light**

ROOM 903 PERFECTIONISM'S ANTIDOTE -

How do we encourage kids to "be all they can be," in our intensely competitive culture, without creating perfectionists? Dealing with perfectionism begins with an understanding of its psychology; for perfectionists, making mistakes implies personal defectiveness and possible personal rejection. It means never seeming good enough. Perfectionism is not a necessary part of giftedness. Pursuit of excellence is vitalizing, while perfectionism's inseparable anxiety about mistakes is debilitating; learn how to create an environment acceptance — perfectionism's antidote.

Presenter: **Tom Greenspon**

ADULT SESSION PRESENTERS

Keynote Speaker - Alonzo Kelly is a dynamic Executive Coach, Professor, 3x Best Selling Author, and Radio Host. He has gained international and global attention as a premier consultant and strategist. Alonzo is recognized as one the nation's leading experts on leadership development, strategic thinking, planning, and acting which results in individual and organizational goal achievement. He has appeared on America's Premier Experts which airs on major networks across the country including ABC, NBC, CBS, and FOX. Alonzo has served over 1,000 individuals through personal and professional development, delivered training to a plethora of Fortune 500 Companies, College and Universities, Institutions of Higher Learning, Foreign Countries, nonprofit organizations, and is consistently retained to be the keynote speaker at large and small events across the country. He holds a bachelor's in Accounting, three master's degrees (Public Administration, Human Resource & Labor Relations, Business Administration), and is nearing completion of a PhD in Multidisciplinary Human Services. He is also currently in the process of obtaining his Doctorate in Business Administration.

Meredith Aby Keirstead is a gifted and talented coordinator for Bloomington Public Schools. She does teacher trainings on how to grow creativity in students and is the proud parent of a creative 5th grader!

Erin Boltik has 30+ years of experience in gifted education as a teacher, GT Coordinator, and now as an Administrator. As a teacher, her passion was always to find a way to tap the talents of her students. As an administrator, she enjoyed developing multiple new programs so that more gifted students are reached and their talents developed!

Wendy Behrens serves as the Gifted and Talented Education Specialist for the Minnesota Department of Education, providing leadership and consultation services for educators, administrators, and parents. She provides technical assistance to and collaborates with institutions of higher education, professional organizations, educator networks, and others interested in promoting rigorous educational opportunities.

CHOICES (Curated Education, Homeschooling, Online Learning, Independent Study, Charter and Private School, Enrichment and Experiential Learning, Shared Time) chapter members are parents who are curating their children's education.

Stuart Dansinger is a Licensed Psychologist and Licensed School Psychologist in private practice. He first assessed gifted children in 1965 and has continued to do so every year since then. He has been an MCGT member since 1968 and was awarded the MCGT Friend of the Gifted Award in 2009.

Suz Feely, Certified Mad2Glad Parenting Coach, is a mother of 2 gifted sons and a dynamic daughter. Suz guides parents in a step-by-step approach to dramatically reduce defiance and disrespect and re-establish confidence and authority. Suz is uniquely gifted at walking alongside parents as they learn to develop deeper connections with their children.

Carrie Foster holds a Bachelor of Arts in Education from the UW, Superior, a Master of Arts in Education from St. Mary's University and an Education Specialist Degree in Educational, School, and Counseling Psychology from the University of Missouri, Columbia.

Dr. Terry Friedrichs has long served as a high school mentor on advanced research projects, with a number of mentees being recognized as Minnesota Scholars of Distinction. **Collin McEllistrom** is a senior at Henry Sibley High School in Mendota Heights, **Amogh Kulkarni** is a junior at Wayzata Sr. High in Wayzata, and **Devesh Bhor** is a sophomore at East Ridge Sr. High in Woodbury.

Thomas S. Greenspon, Ph.D., is an author, a recently-retired psychologist and marriage and family therapist, and a faculty member at the Minnesota Institute for Contemporary Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis. Tom and his wife Barbara are former co-presidents of the Minnesota Council for the Gifted and Talented.

Kris Happe is an educator with two gifted children. She has been a classroom teacher, gifted education program specialist, and district gifted coordinator. Kris served on the MDE's Gifted Education Advisory Council and presents at NAGC, SENG, MCGT and MEGT conferences. She is a certified SENG Model Parent Group facilitator.

Shelly Harvey, MA, LSC is a school counselor, parenting coach and parent of a gifted son. Her areas of specialty are: anxiety, Social Thinking, Zones of Regulation and teaching executive functioning skills to students. She is co-leading the newly launched 2e parenting group and recently received SENG facilitator training.

Erika Kluge, Director of THINK with Success, is an Assistive Technology (AT) Specialist & Educator. Her experience encompasses all age groups with an emphasis of AT used to enhance academics and work tasks. She is a past Recipient of The Minnesota STAR Program's Awards for Excellence in Assistive Technology.

Nathan Levy is an internationally-known gifted consultant, teacher and coordinator of gifted and has been a school principal for 27 years. He is the author of *Stories with Holes*, *There Are Those*, *Not Just Schoolwork* and many other books used in gifted programs.

Dr. Julie Light, currently an academic coach and consultant, spent 20 years in public schools teaching G/T students, writing advanced curriculum, leading/training teachers, and developing/implementing/evaluating G/T programs. She has extensive experience bringing families, teachers, and administrators together, advocating for the unique and individual and needs of G/T students. <https://julielightedd.wordpress.com/>

Tania Lyon is an experienced language arts educator, AP Language and Composition Exam Reader, and district talent development coordinator. She has a masters degree in Curriculum and Instruction, a doctoral degree in Critical Pedagogy in Educational Leadership and a K-12 Principal's license. She is the current president of MEGT.

Melissa Malen is passionate about 2e student achievement and student development of learning accommodations. Melissa provides academic coaching to support student talent development and achievement. Melissa works with gifted students that are challenged with ADHD, ASD, NLD, written and reading comprehension disabilities, dyslexia, depression, and anxiety.

Pam McDonald has been working in the gifted education field for over thirty years. She is currently consulting with school districts and families and is also an adjunct faculty member at Hamline University.

Max Melby is the Director of Arete Academy- a school serving twice exceptional learners in the Twin Cities area since 2014. He has a foundation in experiential, outdoor, and science education with tier 4 licenses in secondary sciences and a master's in cognitive science and instructional leadership.

Stephen Schroeder-Davis, Ed.D. spent 42 years teaching and coordinating Gifted Services for Elk River Schools. He served as President for MCGT and board member with MEGT and the MDE's G/T Advisory Council. He was awarded the "Friend of the Gifted" from the MCGT, MEGT, and Ohio Gifted Council and created the G/T certificate for Saint Mary's University.

Jenine Severson has worked with GT students for 15 years and is now a GT Resource Teacher. She is also the Coordinator for NWTA (Northwest Talent Academy) Summer program to provide summer programming for G/T students. Jenine is a certified SENG Model Parent Group Facilitator and proud parent of a GT child.

Marti Sievek is an Innovative educational leader with fifteen years experience in pre-K through adult education. He is experienced in providing strategic direction, collaborative planning, and implementation for systematic change, has acute awareness of the impact of culture and race in educational systems and beyond and is committed to developing thoughtful, confidently prepared students, vibrant schools, and strong communities.

Nathan Streng and Sam Neisen are award-winning teachers designing a school around youth empowerment and community problem solving. They collaborate with community stakeholders to enrich and inform their learner-centered paradigm. They have been trained by Education Reimagined and are part of Transcend Education's national team of transformational educators.

Tina Van Erp, M.Ed., The River@Coach, is a gifted learner coach with 20 years of experience in gifted education and supporting gifted learners and their families. She is specifically interested in working toward solutions to consistent challenges for gifted learners.

David Wolff is the Principal of Neveln Elementary School in Austin, MN. David has been in education for 19 years as a classroom teacher, a District Coordinator of Gifted & Talented, and as Principal. He served on the Board of Directors for the Minnesota Educators for the Gifted & Talented and Math Masters.

Ed Zaccaro is a popular presenter at math, homeschool and gifted education conferences and has approached gifted education as a parent, teacher, and school board member. He possesses a unique sense of humor and has the ability to make math fun and challenging. He has a Masters degree in Gifted Education and is the author of several books for mathematically gifted children.

Silent Auction - 9:00 am - 2:40 pm

Silent Auction - Support MCGT by bidding on some great items and gifted services.

- Individual IQ Assessment with Teresa Boatman, value \$450
- Academic Coaching Assessment with Melissa Malen, value \$150
- Parent/Caregiver Consultation Hour with Mary Wandrei, value \$175
- Parent Coaching Session with Tina Van Erp, value \$95
- One Hour Consultation Parent(s) and Child with Julie Light, value \$60
- AMC Gift card/Super Commuter Couples book Donated by Megan Bearce, value \$40
- Set Game Donated by Pam McDonald, value \$15
- Amare Kids Pack Donated by Wendy Williams, value \$198
- Book: To Be Gifted & Learning Disabled, value \$45.95
- Book: The Power of Self-Advocacy for Gifted Learners, value \$39.99
- Book: A Practical guide to Mental Health & Learning Disorders for Every Educator, value \$42.99
- Book: 25 Real Life Math Investigations, Donated by Ed Zaccarro, value \$25.95
- Book: When Math Matters, Donated by Ed Zaccarro, value \$22.95
- \$75 Gift Certificate for Usborne Books & More, donated by Liz Hawkinson & April Pupedis
- \$25 Gift Certificate for For Tykes donated by Chris Brecht
- Presentation/Workshop with Nathan Levy, value \$3000

Betty Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund

Memorials can be made to the Betty Johnson Scholarship Fund through the Minnesota Council for the Gifted and Talented.

On mcgt.net click on the Betty Johnson Scholarship Fund or go to mcgt.net/betty to make your contribution.

If you would like to mail a contribution, please send a check made out to MCGT (with Scholarship Fund in memo line) to 5701 Normandale Road, Suite 315, Edina MN 55424.

The Day's Schedule

8:30 - 9:00	Check-in and get program
9:00 -12:00	Children's morning session
9:00 - 9:30	Welcome, Friend of the Gifted award
9:30 -10:30	Keynote Address
10:45 - 11:45	Adult breakout session - I
11:45 - 1:00	Lunch for adults and kids
12:20 - 1:20	Mid-day session
12:20 - 1:20	Table Talk session
1:00 - 4:00	Children's afternoon session
1:00 - 1:20	MCGT Annual Meeting
1:30 - 2:30	Adult breakout session - II
2:45 - 3:45	Adult breakout session - III
4:10 - 4:30	Book Swap

Exhibitors & Vendors in the Gym from 8:30-4:30

Amare Global, Arete Academy, AxyLu Academics, Bloomington Public Schools, Bright Spotting: Positive Solutions for Families, Center for Talent Development at Northwestern University and Northwestern University Midwest Academic Talent Search, Cyprus Classical Academy, Exploration High School, For Tykes, Friedrichs Education, Hickory Grove Press, MathCounts, MCGT Book Sales, Metropolitan Open School, Minnesota Institute for Talented Youth, Minnesota Odyssey of the Mind, Nathan Levy Books, Strive Publishing, Thrivent Financial, Usborne & Kane Miller Books, **plus Catalogs and Information**

The Minnesota Council for the Gifted and Talented provides the service of information, but does not intend endorsement or recommendation of any programs, products or activities, unless specifically noted. You are encouraged to obtain additional information and make your own evaluations.

Kids Program - 2nd Floor

Morning (9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)

Kindergarten - Second Grade

- Room 208-A101 Build a Bat - Ruth Carp
Room 205-A102 Tinkering with LEGO - Peter Hoh
Room 207-A103 Animal Engineers - Jen Heyer

Third - Fourth Grade

- Room 212-A202 Out of this World Art! - Kris Holtmeyer
Room 202-A203 Harry Potter Magic and Myth - Anna Berntson

Fifth - Seventh Grade

- Room 221-A302 You Hack! - Aaron Councilman

Fourth - Fifth Grade

- Room 203-A502 Hoop it up! - Lumhe Sampson

Afternoon (1:00 - 4:00 p.m.)

Kindergarten - Second Grade

- Room 212-P111 Out of this World Art! - Kris Holtmeyer
Room 204-P112 Feathers, Fur, and Fall - Robyn Char
Room 207-P113 Animal Engineers - Jen Heyer

Third - Fourth Grade

- Room 202-P212 Harry Potter Magic and Myth - Anna Berntson
Room 205-P213 Tinkering with LEGO - Peter Hoh

Fifth - Seventh Grade

- Room 206-P312 Strong Moves - Darrius Strong

Fourth - Fifth Grade

- Room 209-A501 Tech Maestro -Jase Ginkel & Christi Kaehn

Student & Adult Book Swap - 4:10-4:30 pm

As part of the MCGT Conference, kids and adults are offered an opportunity to exchange their used books in good condition for "new" reading material. The student section will contain children's and adolescent books (no textbooks or preschool books please). Books may be turned in at registration and participants are given a coupon noting how many books they brought in. They return to the book swap areas in the exhibit area at 4:10 after the afternoon classes end and redeem their coupon for books of their choice. We hope all leave excited to read their "new" books.